ACCESSION NUMBER

PRESS MARK

16281/B

the residence of Lady Frederick Cavendish.

CONSECRATION AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—After a lapse of 205 years the oldest church in Tunbridge Wells was consecrated yesterday. Dr. Parry, Bishop of Dover, accompanied by Mr. Hassard, the principal registrar, attended in Tunbridge Wells under a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the building was consecrated by the style and title of the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells. The history of the edifice is of some interest. The first part of the old chapel was built in 1682 as a memorial to Charles I., and for the use chiefly of visitors who came to drink the celebrated waters. It was built mainly through the efforts of Mr. H. Haws, citizen of London and treasurer of Christ's Hospital. The chapel was enlarged in 1684, and again very considerably enlarged in 1694. At that time the mother parish of Tonbridge was of immense extent. The chapel was erected in a corner of Tonbridge parish and on the confines of the parishes of Speldhurst and Frant, and for about 140 years it seems to have served as a chapel-of-ease to these three parishes, but was quite independent of them. The patronage was in the hands of trustees, who were noblemen and county gentlemen. The Rev. L. S. Tugwell is the present incumbent of the church, His two immediate predecessors were the Rev. Martin Benson (an ancestor of the Archbishop of Canterbury), who held the incumbency for 50 years ; and the Rev. H. L. Pope, who was incumbent for 49 years. When the population of Tunbridge Wells increased Mr. Benson was the chief mover in the building of Holy Trinity Church there. The old chapel was completely restored five years ago as a memorial to the late Mr. Pope, at a cost of more than £4,000. For four years the late Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria (our present Queen) attended the church, and took great interest in the boys' school attached to it. The consecration was necessary in order that a district might be assigned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the church.

Times 19/VII/67

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Lang: Burton

THE HISTORY OF TUNBRIDGE-WELLS.

BY

THOMAS BENGE BURR,

—— juvat integros accedere fontes.
Lucret.

———— conceſſêre columnæ.
Hor.

London Printed.

Sold by M. Hingeston, in the Strand, near Temple-Bar; J. Dodsley, Pallmall; T. Caslon, Stationers-Court, Ludgate-Street; and E. Baker, at Tunbridge-Wells. M,DCC,LXVI.

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

TO

THOMAS BOWLBY, Esq;

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE,

THIS WORK,

MOST UNWORTHY OF HIS ACCEPTANCE,

IS,

WITH ALL DUE DEFERENCE,

AND WITH THE WARMEST AND MOST RESPECTFUL GRATITUDE,

HUMBLY INSCRIBED AND DEDICATED

BY

HIS MOST OBEDIENT

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

Thomas Benge Burr.

HORACE, Ode VI. Book II, Imitated.

MÆCENAS! wouldſt thou fondly roam
To climes from whence fair freedom's fled,
And quit th' unrival'd joys of home,
Italia's weeping plains to tread?

Go then —— indulge thy warm deſire
Thoſe antique regions to explore;
Rekindle Rome's extinguiſh'd fire,
And genius to her realms reſtore.

Go —— with immortal Horace vie,
Amidſt thoſe mould'ring proud remains,
Where arts and arms neglected lie,
And monkiſh ſuperſtition reigns.

For me, where Medway's ſilver tides
Roll by yon gothic-viſag'd walls,
Where Sidney's genius ſtill preſides,
And Spenſer tun'd his madrigals.

There o'er thoſe wild Arcadian plains,
Where bards of old were wont to rove,
And Waller ſung immortal ſtrains,
To wake his Sachariſſa's love.

Ere youthful vigour feels decay,
Could i attune my runic lyre,
My raptur'd muſe might catch ſome ray
Of Waller's bright cœleſtial fire.

But, ſince the adverſe fates deny
To me thoſe muſe-inſpiring-ſhades,
To Tunbridge' ſmiling ſprings i'll fly,
To court the ſweet Aonian maids.

There, where th' auſpicious waters flow
That renovate the ſickly frame,
Bid beauty feel her wonted glow,
And raiſe th' expiring vital frame :

Where bliſs and laughter have their birth,
And ſportive loves and pleaſures reign ;
Where crowds, and noiſe, and ſocial mirth
Draw faſhion's gay fantaſtic train——

There my bold muſe on vent'rous wing,
Warmly ambitious to excel,
The ſtory of the place ſhall ſing,
And all her hum'rous cuſtoms tell :

Tell how the genial nymph oppreſs'd,
Her virtues and her pow'rs unknown,
Emerg'd to light, by all careſs'd,
And with tranſcendent luſtre ſhone.

The fertile ſubject then purſue,
Deſcribe her hills, her dales, her groves,
Draw each amuſive ſcene to view,
And paint her joys, and ſing her loves.

Next vent'ring on the world's great ſtage,
With trembling hope ſollicit praiſe,
Nor dread the ſnarling critic's rage,
While Bowlby deigns to ſhield her lays.

So, twining round the lordly oak,
Secure th' ambitious ivy grows,
And prop'd againſt the tempeſt's ſtroke,
Laughs at the fierceſt wind that blows.

THE

PREFACE.

IN an age which abounds with Authors, of every rank, ſex, and profeſſion; when almoſt all, who barely know to uſe a pen, preſume it capable of becoming, in their hands, an inſtrument of public entertainment or inſtruction, and the immediately next thing, to the being able to read a book, ſeems to be the attempt to make one—in ſuch an age of unlimited indulgence to the itch of ſcribbling, it can ſcarce be deemed out of character, in a "journeyman bookſeller," to thruſt himſelf among the paper-waſting throng and offer, to the patrons of induſtry, an evidence that he has ſome love for the object of his trade, and has not ſlept away his leiſure behind the counter, though it may prove his ſad fate to give his readers ſleep, by what he has been in this work attempting there.

The affection which he bears to the place of his nativity, and the hope of being of ſome little ſervice to his old friends and acquaintance, are the prevailing motives that have induced this author to endeavour to prepare his work for the preſs: and the eaſe and tranquillity of mind, which he has enjoyed in the ſervice of a * man of the moſt liberal

* Mr. George Hawkins, many years a bookſeller, near Temple-

liberal temper, and the greateſt good-nature in the world, has given him courage and opportunity to perſiſt in a deſign, which the proper ſenſe he has of his own incapacity would, in any other circumſtances, moſt effectually have cruſhed.

It is not very neceſſary to inform the world how one ſo incapable, and ſo ſenſible of his own inſufficiency, originally came to form the deſign of writing an hiſtory; but gratitude for the many undeſerved favours and benevolent condeſcenſions of his *Patron*, from the moſt early part of his life, obliges him to acknowledge, that it was from *him* he received the hint, and that *his* kind notice was the ſpur that urged him to endeavour at ſomething above his ſtation, and above his abilities.

It has been his conſtant aim, throughout this work, to make it as little tedious as poſſible, but that, after all his pains, he has been able to render it entertaining, is more than his fondeſt wiſhes can ſeduce him to believe.

He can only ſay in excuſe for this publication that, had any other writer undertaken to ſatisfy the curioſity of the numbers who are every year enquiring into the circumſtances of that diſcovery, and thoſe ſubſequent improvements of it, which this book is intended to commemorate, he would have been far enough from laying himſelf under the diſagreeable neceſſity of thus apologizing to the

Temple-Bar, and lately appointed Treaſurer to the Company of Stationers: a gentleman who is univerſally reſpected and eſteemed in proportion as he is known.

the world for an attempt which muſt make his deficiencies of every kind but too publicly known.

In the firſt part of this work he has trod unbeaten ground, with no other guides but ſome manuſcripts collected in his own family, and the traditional reports of the moſt aged people who have lived in the place ſince he came to years of maturity; but, as he has taken the utmoſt pains to get the moſt authentic intelligence, he is fully convinced that the whole may be perfectly relied upon as matter of fact. In the latter part he has * authorities ſufficient to proceed on—Dugdale and Rapin were his principal guides, though he has not ſo entirely depended upon them as to exclude any later aſſiſtance that offered in the way. In ſhort, to be authentic has been his principal endeavour, and in its conformity to truth alone he places all the little merit of this work; which, however imperfect in other reſpects, may, ſo far, ſerve as a baſis for ſome abler writer, if any one ſhould ever ſtart up to do more juſtice to the ſubject.

He is loth to detain the reader unneceſſarily, but it can ſcarce be thought that he does ſo in adding one word more, of ſpecial excuſe, for that part of this performance, which treats of the air and the "water" of Tunbridge-Wells, in a medicinal view. The conſciouſneſs of his inſufficiency would

* Theſe authorities in general are only cited where authors differ from each other; or where the circumſtances are mentioned only by one writer that has happened to fall under the author's inſpection.

would readily have determined him to drop what relates to the "latter" in this reſpect, if that omiſſion would not have rendered the work manifeſtly incomplete, and perhaps highly exceptionable to ſome, who might be more particularly deſirous of general information on this head. The candid will ſtill leſs in this, than any part of the book, ſuſpect him of other intentions than to the labour of compiling from the moſt approved authors on the ſubject. To this the preſent uſages of the place are ſubjoined, and, with theſe lights before him, he ventures to hope that the miſtakes he may have made will not conſiderably miſlead thoſe who neglect to ſeek for better inſtruction, in a matter of particular application to every individual reſorting to theſe ſprings for health, and in a ſituation, where the opportunity of proper advice is never wanting.

The author cannot ſuffer this book to paſs into the world without acknowledging the obligation he is under to his ſubſcribers. He hopes they will generouſly excuſe his deferring the publication ſo long, when he aſſures them it was principally occaſioned by his deſire to render the work more worthy of their notice, for which purpoſe he has moſt literally obeyed the precept of Horace,

——nonumque prematur in annum.

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AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF TUNBRIDGE-WELLS.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE are many different traditional accounts of the firſt diſcovery of thoſe celebrated ſprings of chalybeate water, now ſo univerſally known by the name of Tunbridge-Wells. And that there ſhould be ſome miraculous ſtories amongſt others, cannot be an object of wonder to thoſe who know, that the origin of places, as well as moſt of the diſcoveries that have been uſeful to mankind, were, in the dark ages of ſuperſtition and prieſt-

Introduction.

Introduction.

craft, generally aſcribed to the extraordinary interpoſition of ſome avaricious ſaint, whoſe credit the monks of the time found themſelves intereſted to advance.

And this not only gave riſe to the numberleſs multitude of fabulous incidents that have attended almoſt every popular diſcovery, but had alſo left ſo ſtrong an impreſſion in the breaſts of our anceſtors, that even the baniſhment of popery could not totally eradicate their fondneſs for miracles, and their violent propenſity to ſwallow the abſurd tales of deſigning knaves.

This might be illuſtrated by many inſtances from hiſtory and obſervation; but, as it is a fact ſo obvious, that few will take upon them to deny it, i rather chuſe to begin immediately

ly the relation of the ſtory i have undertaken, than needleſsly employ my time in diſproving abſurdities: it is, however, requiſite to premiſe, for the ſatisfaction of my readers, that the ſtory i have been ſpeaking of, and am now haſtening to relate, is not only better atteſted than any other on the ſame ſubject, but is alſo by much the moſt admiſſible, becauſe it is the only one unattended with miraculous, or, at leaſt, very improbable incidents. Introduction.

It is true, there are no corroborating circumſtances to be produced from hiſtory, or antique monuments, to aſcertain the truth of the following narrative, which is chiefly gathered from verbal information; and therefore i dare not take upon me to prove the whole to the ſatisfaction of a nice critical inquirer; but, as the perſons

Introduction. from whom i have it are, or were, people of integrity in the common concerns of life, no ways biaſſed by intereſted views to relate falſehoods, and above all immediately deſcended from thoſe who were living at the time, and principally concerned in theſe tranſactions, i cannot entertain the leaſt doubt of the truth of it myſelf.

Chapter I.

The firſt diſcovery of the medicinal water at Tunbridge-Wells.

1603. Dudley Lord North[1] was a diſtinguiſhed nobleman in king James's court, or rather in the court of Prince Henry, his ſon, where he entered into all the gallantries of the times with a vivacity and ſpirit, which, however

[1] North's Lives.

however entertaining to others, was attended with very disagreeable consequences to himself, since it was not only destructive to his fortune, but ruinous to his constitution also. 1603.

This young nobleman had reached his twenty-fourth year, when he fell into a lingering, consumptive disorder, that baffled the utmost efforts of medicine, and absolutely deprived him of all capacity for enjoying those pleasures which hitherto he had too freely indulged. In this melancholy situation it became necessary for him to live more regularly than he yet had done; and, in order the better to enable him to fall into a new plan with facility, it was judged expedient to separate him from the scenes of pleasure, in which he must unavoidably continue to be engaged, while he re- 1605.

1605. mained in the vicinity of the court: upon this principle, his friends and his phyſicians adviſed him to retire into the country, and try the efficacy of that laſt remedy, change of air, for the re-eſtabliſhment of his conſtitution.

1606. In conſequence of this judicious advice, his lordſhip, in the ſpring of the year one thouſand ſix hundred and ſix, made Eridge-houſe the place of his retreat.

[a] Eridge was then a hunting-ſeat belonging

[a] Eridge-houſe is about two miles from Tunbridge-Wells; and is mentioned in the following manner by the late Mr. Aaron Hill, in a letter to Mr. David Mallet:

"'Twas an obliging wiſh you ſent me—"all "the real pleaſures of retirement."—"That ac-"tual happineſs once, about thirty years ago, I "was on the very verge of, in the neighbourhood "of

belonging to Lord Abergavenny, and 1606.
has ever ſince continued in the poſſeſſion of his noble deſcendants, though it is now reduced to a plain farm-houſe. The building is an ancient Gothic ſtructure, that appears, notwithſtanding its preſent ruinous condition, to have been an agreeable retirement from the attendance of a court. The ſituation is in the higheſt degree romantic, the gardens were elegantly diſpoſed in the taſte of that age, the ſoil is dry, the air pure and healthful,

" of the rocks and trees you correſpond with. " There is a place called Eridge-park, belonging " to lord Abergavenny, and an open, old, ap- " propriated foreſt of the name of Waterdown, " that butted on the park incloſure. There was " alſo near it then a houſe called Eridge-houſe. " The park was an aſſemblage of all nature's " beauties—hills, vales, brooks, lawns, groves, " thickets, rocks, water-falls, all wildly noble " and irregularly amiable.'

Hill's Works, Vol. 2d.

1606. and no country can afford finer riding; ſo that, on the whole, one can hardly conceive an idea of a place more properly adapted to reſtore health to a conſumptive habit: but then, to counterbalance theſe advantages, it was ſituated in one of the moſt ſavage parts of the county of Suſſex, and, by its diſtance from all neighbourhood, ſecluded its inhabitants from all intercourſe with the reſt of mankind.

Lord North was adviſed to continue in this manſion during the whole ſummer, but the wild aſpect of the country, and the unſocial ſituation of the place, were ſo incompatible with the lively diſpoſitions of this gay young courtier, that he ſoon grew weary of his retreat. And, in this diſpoſition of mind, he formed a reſolution of returning to town long before the expiration

expiration of the appointed time, unleſs he ſhould very ſoon experience thoſe ſalutary benefits from the air, which his phyſicians had flattered him with the hope of receiving. 1606.

However, his lordſhip, at the repeated inſtances of his friends, and in order to give the country a fair trial, was prevailed upon to continue yet another ſix weeks at Eridge; when, finding his diſorder rather increaſed than diminiſhed, and particularly that his ſpirits were greatly lowered, he was ſatisfactorily convinced that the air alone was a very inſufficient counterpoiſe againſt the effects of the dreary ſolitude in which he was immerſed, and conſequently would go but a little way towards reſtoring his health to its priſtine ſtate: his lordſhip therefore, rejecting all ſollicitation

to

1606. to remain any longer here, abruptly quitted this retired manſion, and began his journey to London.

Thus was this young nobleman travelling to the great metropolis, in a more deſperate and melancholy condition than ever, being deprived of all the flattering hopes that his ſanguine friends and his phyſicians had inſpired, and with no other proſpect in view but that diſmal one of a grave in the firſt bloom of manhood, without in the leaſt ſuſpecting that, in leaving this country, he was flying from the remedy appointed by providence for the the cure of his diſorder.

But, fortunately for him, his road lay directly through the wood in which theſe uſeful ſprings were concealed from the knowledge of mankind; ſo that,

that, when his lordſhip came upon the ſpot, at the beginning of his journey, and while he had the day before him, he could not well paſs by without taking notice of a water, which ſeemed to claim his attention, on account of the ſhining mineral ſcum that everywhere ſwam on its ſurface, as well as on account of the ochreous ſubſtance which ſubſided at the bottom, and marked its courſe to a neighbouring brook. His lordſhip accordingly obſerved theſe uncommon appearances, the meaning of which he could not inſtantly comprehend; however, they induced him to alight from his carriage, in order to examine it more attentively; and at the ſame time he ordered one of his attendants to borrow a little veſſel from the neighbouring hovel, that he might taſte it: and the peculiar ferruginous taſte of the water

1606.

not

1606. not only convinced lord North, that it held its courſe through ſome undiſcovered mine, contained in the dark cavities of the earth, but alſo gave him room to fancy, that it was indued with ſome medicinal properties, which might be highly beneficial to the human race.

As a drowning man is ſaid to catch at a ſtraw, ſo his lordſhip, as ſoon as he had in imagination made this important diſcovery, began to hope it would be uſeful to himſelf; and therefore commanded his ſervants to bottle off ſome of the water, in order to conſult his phyſicians upon this ſubject, as ſoon as he could get to London.

From whence the bottles were procured upon this occaſion, it is not now very eaſy to determine; but that lord North

North ſent ſome part of his retinue back to Eridge for as many as were neceſſary, is very probable: at leaſt it is not likely they were to be had nearer, as at that time the whole of the ſurrounding country was rough woods, and uncultivated foreſts, without either houſe or inhabitant, except that which his lordſhip had juſt quitted, and one little cottage very near the ſpring, in which lived the woman from whom his ſervants borrowed the wooden bowl, that his lordſhip drank out of when he taſted the water. 1606.

Be this as it will, ſome of the water was carried to London, the phyſicians were conſulted upon its virtues, and their judgement ſo perfectly coincided with lord North's opinion, that they immediately left town to examine it on the ſpot. We have no particular account

1606. count of the proceſs they uſed on this occaſion; but, as their ſole buſineſs was to diſcover the nature and properties of the water, they undoubtedly exerted all their ſkill, and tried all the experiments, the then infant ſtate of chemiſtry would admit of, to anſwer this important end: however, though we are unacquainted with the method they purſued, we are aſſured the reſult of their inquiries proved ſo favourable to this hitherto neglected ſpring, that they haſted back again to publiſh its valuable qualities, and to give their noble patient ſufficient encouragement to try its efficacy, on the return of the vernal ſeaſon.

1607. Accordingly, as ſoon as warm weather came on, and the roads were dry enough to render a journey practicable, my lord North returned to Eridge to add

add the power of the water to the purity of the air, and try how far their united force would contribute to reſtore ſtrength and vigour to his ſhattered conſtitution. And, notwithſtanding the low condition to which he was by this time reduced, the ſucceſs he met with more than anſwered his moſt ſanguine expectations, inſomuch that, after about three months continuance in this [3] now delightful country, he returned to town ſo perfectly freed from all his complaints, that we cannot find he ever afterwards experienced the leaſt return of his diſorder, though we are aſſured he again gave himſelf up to all the gallantries of the age, and lived in the full indulgence of every pleaſure, till after the death of the accompliſhed prince Henry, when he [4] retired from 1607.

[3] Health makes the gloomy face of nature gay,
Gives beauty to the ſun, and luſtre to the day.

[4] Vide North's Lives—and Collins's Peerage.

1607. from the pedantic court of James to his country-ſeat at Catlidge in Cambridgeſhire, where he lived more honourably upon the remains of his fortune, than ever he had done before, and died on the ſixteenth day of January in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-ſix, at the advanced age of eighty-five.

It is from this recovery of an eminent nobleman from the verge of the grave, that we muſt date all the honours to which Tunbridge-Wells has riſen. And, if we trace its ſtory to the head, it will appear, that only ſo trifling an incident, as the colour of the ground about the water of a wild unuſeful wood, has filled the deſart with inhabitants, and made plenty ſmile o'er the barren heath!

CHAPTER II.

The ſtate of the place during the firſt thirty years after the diſcovery of the water.

LORD NORTH, immediately on this almoſt miraculous re-eſtabliſhment of his health, by repairing to the court of his royal maſter, as was before obſerved, confirmed the rumour of his having diſcovered theſe valuable ſprings of medicinal water; of the excellency of which, he was himſelf an inconteſtable evidence to all that had known him in his paſt languiſhing and deplorable condition, when his whole ſyſtem bore the appearance of an univerſal decay, and nature itſelf ſeemed haſtening to its period. 1607.

And, as this water had its riſe on the borders of Lord Abergavenny's eſtate,

1608. this very ſufficient proof of its merit induced that nobleman to intereſt himſelf in its preſervation, and, with this view, to make the place as convenient as the nature of the country would admit of, to the many invalids that, it was reaſonably conjectured, would fly to it for a refuge from their various diſorders.

Lord Abergavenny was ſo much in earneſt in this important undertaking, that he came to Eridge on purpoſe to proſecute it with the greateſt vigour; and, having obtained leave of Mr. Weller of Tunbridge, who was at that time lord of the manor, his lordſhip ordered the ground about the ſprings to be cleared from the ſurrounding rubbiſh, and ſent for an eminent naturaliſt from London, with whoſe aſſiſtance he diſtinguiſhed the two prin-

cipal of ſeven ſeveral ſprings, for ſo many were at firſt diſcovered; and over theſe his lordſhip ordered wells to be ſunk, a ſtone pavement to be laid round, and the whole to be incloſed with wooden rails in a triangular form. 1608.

From henceforth this excellent water became a ſubject of public diſcourſe, and its vaſt efficacy, in removing many diſorders to which the human body is incident, was ſufficiently evidenced by the recovery of many who ventured on the trial; but the place itſelf continued ſeveral years in the ſame deſolate condition, with only a very few inconſiderable improvements, ſuch as cutting down ſome of the wood, clearing off thoſe buſhes that were moſt troubleſome to the water-drinkers, and making the road 1608 to 1630.

1608 to 1630. from Tunbridge-town more convenient than when it was leſs frequented.

This ſlow progreſs in embelliſhing the country was probably occaſioned by the uncertainty of its proving beneficial to the owners, as well as to the manners of the age, and the careleſſneſs of thoſe who attended merely for the relief that its water afforded.

The owners, indeed, at that time, could have but little room to imagine that Tunbridge-Wells would ever become ſo eminent among the votaries of pleaſure as it now is. London had abſolutely engroſſed all the faſhionable amuſements to herſelf; gaming, intrigue, and every other diverſion invented to kill time, and gratify the reſtleſs paſſions of man, were confined to her precincts alone, and only exiſted

ed during the winter months. The summer was a ſeaſon of languor and diſcontent. The people of faſhion had no agreeable retreats in which they could be together, and purſue thoſe amuſements that had employed them in the winter. The healthy flew to their country-ſeats, and paſſed their time in a wearifome ſolitude, amidſt a company whoſe ſtation and manners were incompatible with their own. The ſick, that reſorted to the mineral waters of Tunbridge, had only the recovery of health in view, and propoſed to themſelves no other pleaſures but ſuch as were intirely rural. The company, thus aſſembled, formed no general ſociety. The amuſements of the gentry were few, confined, and ſelfiſh. The great brought with them all the haughtineſs of nobility, and knew not how to let themſelves down with grace. 1608 to 1630.

1608 to 1630. In ſhort, delicacy, politeneſs, and elegant pleaſures, were then but juſt budding forth from amidſt the rubbiſh of Gothic barbariſm, and, till theſe were grown to ſuch a height as to be diſcernible amongſt us, Tunbridge-Wells was not eſteemed a place of pleaſure, in which the people of faſhion might depend upon being agreeably amuſed.

During this period, Tunbridge-town was the neareſt place where any lodgings could be procured, and therefore was generally pretty much crowded in the water-drinking ſeaſon, which uſually began in May and continued to October.

1630. But nothing very remarkable happened in this country from the firſt diſcovery of its ſprings, till the arrival of

of queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles the firſt, who was ſent here by her phyſicians, for the re-eſtabliſhment of her health, after the birth of prince Charles, which happened on the twenty-ninth of May, in the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and thirty. 1630.

It is ſaid of this young queen, who was the firſt of the royal family that ever honoured Tunbridge-Wells with their preſence, that, at this time, ſhe had perſonal charms which every day grew more lovely in the eyes of her huſband; and ſhe ſo well underſtood their proper uſe, as, after the death of Buckingham, intirely to captivate his heart; but, being a foreigner, and, upon her firſt arrival in England, ſlighted, as ſhe imagined, by the king, and really ill-treated by the favourite, ſhe did not entertain any very advan-

1630. tageous prepoſſeſſions for the court; and, afterwards, the diſputes between Charles and his parliament gave her ſtill leſs room to love the people. This unhappy prejudice againſt the whole nation was ſufficient to awaken the ſpirit of a Medicis, and perhaps led her into ſome errors; it certainly was the foundation of much uneaſineſs to her during the future part of her life, and the probable cauſe of her diſreliſh for this kingdom, even after the reſtoration. However, notwithſtanding this, ſhe ever behaved with proper civility to all, and to ſome ſhe was moſt obligingly kind. In the days of her proſperity ſhe was fond of maſks and dancing, and in this place, which, on account of its rural aſpect, and truly romantic appearance, was well calculated for the purpoſe, ſome were performed before

before her, that were extremely inge- 1630.
nious, as well as magnificent.

The queen continued about ſix weeks at the Wells, and dwelt in tents the whole time. Her camp was pitched upon Biſhop's-down-common, and certainly diffuſed a ſplendor and magnificence over this wild country, to which it had hitherto been an abſolute ſtranger; but, except the honour of her preſence, and the clearing of the common to make room for her tents, the place received no benefit from her majeſty's ſucceſsful reſidence in it.

The curioſity of this gay young queen induced her one day to walk from the Well a little way into the county of Suſſex, where ſhe wandered about till, at length growing weary, ſhe ſat down

on

1630. on a bank beneath the ſhade of a ſpreading birch for refreſhment; and, when ſhe had ſufficiently reſted herſelf, ſhe aroſe, and ordered a ſtone to be placed there, as a memorial of her travels in that county, not then in the leaſt preſaging how many counties ſhe was in a few years afterwards deſtined to travel through. A complimentary latin inſcription was ingraved on this ſtone by one of her majeſty's attendants; but Oliver's rude partizans prevented its reaching poſterity.—Such generally are the effects of licentious rebellion, which is at all times deſtructive of the arts, and attended with ruin and confuſion.

The Queen's-ſtone, an alehouſe in the road to Frant, is built where this monument was placed, and the ſign, which [c] hung there till within theſe few years,

[c] It is now the ſign of the Blue-bell.

years, was drawn from a view of the stone itself; but the inscription is no where preserved. 1630.

It is in remembrance of this queen, that doctor Rowzee, in his little valuable treatise on this water, calls the place "Queen-Mary's-Wells;" but this name was never very generally accepted, and probably because it was the last given to it. At this distance of time it is a difficult matter to ascertain what name the place was at first distinguished by; but, as "Kilburne," in his "Survey of Kent," calls it "Frant-Wells," we may with some sort of assurance conjecture that this was the name originally given to the place by lord Abergavenny; and this conjecture must receive great additional strength from considering, that his lordship's estate, in that neighbourhood,

1630. hood, is ſituated in the pariſh of "Frant."

But theſe names are now intirely loſt; and "Tunbridge-Wells" is univerſally adopted in their ſtead. It will be difficult to account for this more judiciouſly than doctor Rowzee has already done, in his before-mentioned neglected treatiſe — "They have their "name, ſays he, from this town, as "being the neareſt town in Kent to "them" — and, it may be added, as being the place where the company uſually reſided, when they firſt began to drink the water medicinally.

It ſeems reaſonable to imagine, as the ſprings riſe in "Speldhurſt-pariſh," no name would have more readily occurred, or been more juſtly applied, than that of "Speldhurſt-Wells;" but,

but, as every thing of this kind depends upon capricious circumſtances, and is in itſelf of very little real importance, any attempt to change the name, which the place has ſo long been known by, and which is now ſo univerſally and ſo firmly eſtabliſhed by time and cuſtom, cannot be more ineffectual than it would be ridiculous. 1630.

CHAPTER III.

The progreſs of the buildings and improvements at Tunbridge-Wells to the preſent time.

THIRTY-YEARS after the diſcovery of the medicinal ſprings at Tunbridge-Wells, notwithſtanding the acknowledged uſefulneſs of the water, the vaſt reſort of company that every ſeaſon attended to partake of its benefits, and the great inconvenience of lodging 1636.

1636. lodging at the diſtance of five miles from the ſpot, the country continued in the ſame rough, wild, uncultivated ſtate that it was left in by Lord Abergavenny; but, as a journey to Tunbridge became at length a ſcheme of pleaſure, and faſhion drew the young and the gay, as well as the diſeaſed and the old, the happy period arrived in which it could not longer remain in ſo deſolate a condition.

The firſt buildings erected in the vicinity of the ſprings were two little houſes, or rather cottages, one for the accommodation of the [5] ladies, and the other for the [6] gentlemen. Theſe buildings were ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the convenience of the company, that it

[5] Where Jenner's paſſing-houſes now are.

[6] Mrs. Latter's, the corner houſe on the right hand, in the way to the Suſſex Tavern.

it is amazing they were ſo long delay- 1636.
ed; nothing ſurely can paint in ſtron-
ger colours the careleſſneſs of the wa-
ter-drinkers, and the want of foreſight
in the country people, than this neg-
lect.

The latter of theſe two houſes, which in the preſent age might perhaps be called a coffee-houſe, was then named the Pipe-office, becauſe there the gentlemen uſually met to converſe over a pipe, and a diſh of coffee, when they had drank their proper quantity of water.

It was cuſtomary for them to pay half-a-crown ſubſcription to this houſe, for the uſe of pipes, the privilege of reading the news-papers, and other little conveniencies of the ſame kind,

which

1636. which is the origin of the preſent coffee-houſe ſubſcriptions; but, through the prevalence of ever-varying faſhion, pens, ink, and paper, are now ſubſtituted inſtead of the diſcarded pipe.

1638. In two years more, a green bank, now paved and called the "Upper-walk," was raiſed and leveled, and a double row of trees was planted on its borders to defend the company from the violence of the meridian ſun. Under theſe trees the tradeſmen uſually ſtood to diſpoſe of their goods in the hours of water-drinking, which was the only time they had to ſell their different ſorts of merchandize in, becauſe the company lodged at too great a diſtance to appear amongſt them above once a day.

The

The next year they began to build a few houſes for the accommodation of the company at [7] Southborough and at [8] Ruſthall. 1639.

Theſe buildings were ſmall and few at firſt, rather ſuited to the circum-

D ſtances

[7] Southborough is about two miles and a half from the Wells, and there are ſtill remaining two or three tolerable houſes at that place; though in general they are gone to decay, and have been bought off and rebuilt at Tunbridge-town and Tunbridge-Wells. At the time when parties raged very high, previous to the grand rebellion, and many years afterwards, the royaliſts lodged at this place, and the round-heads at Ruſthall: each party thus chuſing to be as far divided from rhe other in their dwellings, as they were in the diſpoſition of their minds.

[8] Ruſthall is about one mile from the Wells, and is ſo called from its ancient proprietors, whoſe names were Ruſt, one of whom was mayor of Feverſham in the time of king Henry the ſixth. The Preſbyterians wanted to build them a conventicle at this place, when it was in its moſt flouriſhing ſtate; but, though it was chiefly ſupported by that ſect, the landlord refuſed to ſell them a foot of land for that purpoſe, even at the moſt extravagant price: ſo inveterate was the hatred that churchmen then bore to preſbyterians.

1639. ſtances and apprehenſions of the builders, than to the company they were intended for; but the water was now in ſuch high reputation, that people gladly put up with any inconveniencies on its account; and therefore, when theſe new houſes were full, would pay an extravagant price for cottages, huts, or any place to ſcreen them from the weather, rather than return home without partaking of the benefits thereof.

The elegant poet Waller has immortalized theſe ſprings, and ſufficiently evidenced their celebrity about this time, by alluding to their ſalutary properties in a charming little poem addreſſed to his Sachariſſa.

Complaining of the cruel indifference of this haughty beauty, the poet exclaims,

exclaims, in imitation of [9] Patroclus in the ſixteenth Iliad, that "ſhe could "not be a Sidney, nor ſpring from her "mother;" and then paſſionately goes on: 1639.

——————"to no human ſtock
"We owe this fierce unkindneſs; but the
"rock,
"That cloven rock produc'd thee, by
"whoſe ſide
"Nature, to recompenſe the fatal pride
"Of ſuch ſtern beauty, plac'd thoſe heal-
"ing ſprings;
"Which not more help, than that deſtruc-
"tion brings."

The quantity of water, uſually drank in this age, certainly deſerves our no-

[9] O man unpitying! if of man thy race;
But ſure thou ſpring'ſt not from a ſoft embrace,
Nor ever am'rous hero gave thee birth,
Nor ever tender Goddeſs brought thee forth.
Some rugged rocks hard entrails gave thee form,
And raging ſeas produc'd thee in a ſtorm,
A ſoul well ſuiting that tempeſtuous kind,
So rough thy manners, ſo untam'd thy mind.
Pope's Homer.

1639. tice; it is indeed ſo truly amazing and incredible, that i could not venture to mention it on any traditional reports; but, as doctor Rowzee, who lived at the time, and was himſelf an eye-witneſs of the fact, has given the detail in a [10] book which he wrote and publiſhed on the ſpot, it cannot very well be diſputed—take it then in his own words—

"Now for the whole quantity of
"water to be taken in a morning, you
"ſhall ſee ſome that riſe very high,
"even to [11] three hundred ounces, ac-
"cording to Neſtor's years; yea, and
"ſome a greater quantity. And it is
"a thing that will make the very wo-

[10] Entitled "The Queen's-wells, &c. by Lodowick Rowzee, M. D." Licenſed in 1637, but not publiſhed till 1671, unleſs there had been a former edition of it, which is not improbable.

[11] Eighteen pints three gills.

"men

" men there filling their glaſſes to 1639.
" laugh, to ſee ſome patients ſent thi-
" ther by ignorant phyſicians, and ap-
" pointed to take ten or twelve ounces
" of water, and ariſe perhaps to twen-
" ty or [12] thirty ounces. But this may
" be a rule for a body of competent
" years and ſtrength, to begin at
" [13] thirty, forty, or fifty ounces, and
" to ariſe by degrees, increaſing their
" quantity every day, to an [14] hun-
" dred, an hundred and fifty, or two
" hundred ounces, more or leſs, as
" they ſhall be able; and ſo again to
" decline and decreaſe by degrees,
" ending where they began."

The trouble and confuſion in which 1640 to
the whole kingdom was involved, du- 1650.

[12] About one pint three quarters.

[13] From almoſt two pints to ſomething more than three pints.

[14] From ſix pints and a half to twelve pints and a quarter!

1640 to 1650. ring the ten following years, ſufficiently accounts for the total neglect of any improvements in this place, throughout the whole of that bloody period; but when the nation became a little ſettled, and began to taſte the ſweets of returning peace, we find Tunbridge-Wells as much in vogue as before.

1655 to 1664. In a ſhort time after this, they had an aſſembly-room, a bowling-green, and other places appropriated to public diverſion at Ruſthall; and at Southborough, too, they had a bowling-green, a coffee-houſe, and a great number of good houſes for lodgings. But, notwithſtanding theſe improvements, the place ſtill continued in an infant ſtate. Its advantages were certainly much increaſed; but many things were wanting to make it convenient either to the company, or the inhabitants,

tants, and many more to compleat it for a place of public entertainment. 1655 to 1664. The houſes were too far diſtant from the ſprings, and in bad weather the water was uſeleſs, becauſe there was no place of ſhelter to ſcreen the drinkers from its violence, while practiſing their neceſſary exerciſe. In this ſituation of things, if a ſudden ſhower happened to fall in the hours of attendance upon the well, it is eaſy to imagine the hurry and confuſion it muſt occaſion amongſt the company expoſed to it.

The poor tradeſmen too had their full ſhare of theſe diſtreſſes, and frequently muſt have had their goods greatly damaged, when accidents of this kind were not timely foreſeen, and effectually guarded againſt.—But now we turn to better times.—

1664. In the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſixty-four, the old rails, placed round the Wells by lord Abergavenny, were diſplaced, and a ſtrong ſtone wall built round them, inſtead of this wooden one. This work was executed at the expence of lord Muſkerry, ſon to the ſecond earl of Clancarty, a brave young nobleman, who loſt his life, the year after, fighting againſt the Dutch in [15] Southwold-bay. He

[15] This naval engagement, ſo glorious to the engliſh nation, was fought on the third of June, one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſixty-five. The engliſh fleet, conſiſting of an hundred and fourteen ſhips, and twenty-two thouſand men, was commanded by the duke of York, Prince Rupert, and the earl of Sandwich; and the dutch, of nearly equal force, by the brave and experienced Admiral Obdam. At firſt things went very equally on both ſides; but, about noon, lord Sandwich, by an excellent manœuvre, fell into the center of the adverſe fleet, and, dividing them, began that confuſion which ſoon ended in their total defeat. The Dutch loſt on this occaſion at leaſt thirty ſhips, and ſix thouſand men: whereas

He was then lord of the manor, and his [16] arms were placed in the arch of the gateway 1664.

the Engliſh, according to the beſt accounts, loſt only one ſhip and about five hundred men.

The duke of York behaved with remarkable bravery during the whole action. He continued ſome hours in the thickeſt of the fire, and had ſeveral perſons of diſtinction killed on board his own ſhip, particularly lord Falmouth, the king's unworthy favourite; the honourable Mr. Boyle, youngeſt ſon to the earl of Burlington; and lord Muskerry, "a young nobleman (* ſays "Clarendon) of extraordinary courage and ex-"pectation; who had been colonel of a regi-"ment of foot in Flanders, where he had done "the king ſome eminent ſervice, and had the "general eſtimation of an excellent officer." Theſe three were all killed with one ſhot, ſo near to his royal highneſs, that his hand was wounded with one of their skulls, and he was covered over with their blood and brains.

* *Vide* Clarendon's Life, page 266, and for further particulars of this eminent young nobleman, who appears to have been equally beloved by his ſovereign, his ſoldiers, and his tenants, ſee Clarendon's Hiſtory, vol. 3d, pages 168, and 475— to 477.

16 Theſe arms were pulled down in the great law-ſuit between the lord and tenants of the manor, which commenced about the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and twenty-ſix: and the arch itſelf was taken down when the Wells were repaired

1664. gateway leading to the ſprings. This young nobleman renewed the ſtone pavement within the wall, placed a handſome baſon over the main ſpring for the better reception of the water, and raiſed a convenient hall to ſhelter the dippers from the weather in the hours of attendance upon the company; from which there is alſo a projection extended to preſerve the well from any mixture with rain water.

It is very probable that lord Muſkerry thus particularly intereſted himſelf in adorning the place this ſeaſon, in compliment to his royal miſtreſs queen Katharine, who was ſent to Tunbridge-Wells for her recovery from the effects of a dangerous fever, which in the pre-

repaired in the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and forty-three, or one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and forty-four. The arms are ſtill to be ſeen behind Pinchbeck's aſſembly-room on the walks.

ceding

ceding winter had reduced her to the verge of the grave. 1664.

Her majeſty was very ſucceſsful in the uſe of the water, which greatly raiſed its reputation, and conſequently encouraged the inhabitants to ſecond the generous efforts of their landlord, and to exert their utmoſt endeavours to render this neglected place both beautiful and convenient. And probably they would have made a much quicker progreſs in this deſign than they did, if lord Muſkerry had been ſpared a few years longer; for this amiable young nobleman was not only perfectly beloved by his tenants, but ſeemed inclined to carry his various improvements ſo far, as to leave but little for his ſucceſſors to do after him. He was indeed remarkably fond of the place, and while he lived gave the greateſt

1664. greateſt encouragement to every public work; and though his death prevented the farther proſecution of his generous intentions, yet they were not wholly without effect, for his conduct had inſpired ſuch a ſpirit in the inhabitants, that, from this period, houſes began to riſe in the woods, and gardens to overſpread the foreſt. In ſhort the paſſion for building was raiſed, and prevailed with unceaſing ardour in this country through a long ſeries of ſucceeding years.

1665 to 1670. In this ſpace the [17] aſſembly room was brought home from Ruſthall to Mount-Ephraim, on which a [r] bowling-green was incloſed, a [18] tavern was opened,

[17] This aſſembly room was in the houſe, called Mount-Ephraim-Houſe.

[r] The bowling-green is now a field on the north ſide of this houſe.

[18] This tavern is now a lodging houſe, but ſtill retains its original name of the caſtle.

and

and many lodging houſes were erected for the uſe of the company; but the triumph of this hill was ſhort, [19] Mount-Sion became a formidable rival, and quickly eclipſed its growing ſplendor; for when the ball-room, the bowling-green, and the lodging houſes aroſe ſo near the ſpring, a leſs convenient diſtance was generally avoided. 1665 to 1670.

Thus in the courſe of a few years we find Tunbridge forſaken; Southborough and Ruſthall raiſed and ruined; Mount-Ephraim drooping; and Mount-Sion in the full bloom of proſperity; this laſt indeed not only rivalled, but deſpoiled her predeceſſors, and triumphantly transferred their ornaments to herſelf; for many houſes

[19] It was owing to the diſputes between the lord of the manor and the tenants, that this hill was preferred to Biſhop's-Down-Common.

MSS. Mathew Benge.

were

1665 to 1670. were brought from Southborough, Ruſthall, and Mount-Ephraim, to be rebuilt on Mount-Sion; and ſome, whole and entire as they were, were [20] wheeled on ſledges to be fixed in this new ſeat of favour.

In this period, the place called the Fiſh-ponds was opened for the amuſement of the public; and as it was laid out in a pretty rural taſte, and every way calculated for the entertainment of genteel company, while its managers continued carefully to maintain decency and ſtrict decorum in its precincts, it was juſtly eſteemed one of the principal ſcenes of diverſion at Tunbridge: but when the vigilance of the managers was dropped, low

[20] Camfield's ſhop adjoining to the chapel, was in this manner brought down from Mount-Ephraim, with the band of muſic playing in it, and a jovial company drinking ſucceſs to the purchaſer.

com-

company admitted, and indecencies encouraged, it ſoon became diſreputable for any of the fair ſex to be ſeen there; which, as a natural conſequence, very quickly reduced it to the ruinous condition in which it now remains. 1665 to 1670.

In the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſeventy, the duke of York, his dutcheſs, and his two daughters, the princeſſes Mary and Anne, were at Tunbridge-Wells; and as his royal highneſs was remarkably pleaſed with the High-rocks, which he frequently viſited, this occaſioned the building of a little houſe there, and from that time it has been faſhionable to make entertainments amidſt thoſe ſtupendous ruins of nature; which ever have been, and ever muſt be reckoned amongſt the principal curioſities of the place. 1670.

1670. These rocks are about a mile and a half from the Wells, and consist of a great number of rude eminencies adjoining to each other, several of which are above [21] seventy feet high. At many places there are surprizing cliffs and chasms that lead quite through the midst of them by narrow gloomy passages; which, together with their being situated among woods and forest, by the side of a gently murmuring stream, makes them afford one of the most romantic retired scenes in nature.

The curious philosophic enquirers who love to indulge themselves in conjecture, have imagined that the vale in which these rocks are situated was once the bed of a prodigious river, a conjecture which is considerably strengthened

[21] "The mean height of these Rocks is about "forty feet. *Bowra.*

ened by the appearance of the whole country in general, and in particular is ſuppoſed to be almoſt demonſtrable from ſome marks on the rocks themſelves, which are ſaid to be evident proofs of their having been the habitation of a particular ſpecies of fiſh. 1670.

When this river exiſted, if it ever did exiſt, none will venture to hazard even a conjecture; but all are united in opinion that it muſt be loſt by ſome violent concuſſion of nature: and, that the country has greatly ſuffered by an earthquake, in ſome former period, appears to be highly probable from the wonderful manner in which many of the rocks are thrown over each other, as well as from the cliffs and chaſms already mentioned; but after all it is hard to ſay, whether this whole phænomenon might not be produced by

1670. that general flood which changed the face of nature all over the globe.

But to return to our narrative, on the foreſt a little beyond the Rocks, a ſpring of water was diſcovered, which was paled in and called Adam's-Well. For what particular reaſon this ſpring was then taken ſuch notice of, it is not now very eaſy to determine. At preſent it is only famous for the cure of mangy dogs, in which caſe it is eſteemed an infallible remedy, and probably, if its merits were properly inveſtigated, it might be found of no ſmall ſervice to thoſe who are afflicted with ſcorbutic cutaneous eruptions.

1676. The annual increaſe of company reſorting to the Wells, encouraged the lord of the manor about this time to think of improving his eſtate, by erecting

ing ſhops and houſes on and near the walks; he therefore entered into an agreement with his tenants, and hired the herbage of the manor on a fifty years leaſe, at ten ſhillings per annum each tenant, and then began to build upon the green bank, and in every convenient ſituation near the ſprings. 1676.

And as Tunbridge-Wells was now become a populous and flouriſhing village, both with reſpect to its ſettled inhabitants, and the company that annually reſorted to it for health or pleaſure, the piety of our anceſtors made them think it neceſſary to build an houſe to the honour of God, leſt the diſtance from every church, together with the various amuſements, and continual diſſipations of a public place, ſhould intirely ſuſpend the attention due to religious duties.

1676. For this purpoſe a ſubſcription was opened, in the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſeventy-ſix, to raiſe a fund for building a chapel; which ſubſcription was continued, without intermiſſion, till one thouſand, ſix hun-
1684. dred, and eighty-four, when it amounted to the ſum of one thouſand, three hundred, and eighty-five pounds. This was judged ſufficient to defray the expences of the work, and a [22] chapel was accordingly built on ground given for that purpoſe by lady Purbeck of Somerhill. This chapel was ſoon found by experience to be too ſmall for the company, and therefore it was afterwards greatly enlarged, and beautified, by a ſecond ſubſcription, begun in the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and eighty-eight, and cloſed in

[22] This chapel is dedicated to king Charles the martyr!.
Vide Willis's Survey, Vol 3. App p. 18.

in one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ninety-ſix, the ſum of which amounted to nine hundred pounds *. 1684.

In this chapel divine ſervice is performed every day during the ſummer ſeaſon, and three times a week in the winter; and the clergyman is maintained by the voluntary ſubſcription of the company that frequent the place. This ſubſcription, at a medium, amounts to about two hundred pounds per annum.

Adjoining to the chapel is a charity ſchool, for fifty or more poor boys and girls, who are there inſtructed in

* There are two tables of the names of theſe ſubſcribers in the veſtry-room of the chapel, a copy of which the author was adviſed by ſome gentlemen to inſert; but, finding upon enquiry that the number of names amounted to two thouſand, ſix hundred, he was fearful of ſwelling the book too much.

1684. the uſeful, not to ſay neceſſary, articles of reading, writing, and common arithmetic, by the clerk for the time being. This ſchool is ſupported by a contribution collected at the chapel doors, at two or three different times in the ſeaſon.

From this ſchool, every other year, one boy is clothed, and apprenticed to ſome ſea-faring trade, by the benefaction of William Strong, Eſq; who by his laſt will, dated Auguſt, one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and thirteen, gave the annual rents of two little farms to this ſchool, and the great ſchool at Tunbridge, thus every year, alternately, to clothe and apprentice one ſcholar. It is alſo farther ordered by the will, that the ſurplus, if at any time any remains, ſhall be lent, upon good

good ſecurity, to either of the boys for five years without intereſt. 1684.

In the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and eighty-ſeven, a fire broke out in the houſe, now called the Flat-houſe, at the bottom of the walk, by which the life of one poor child was loſt, and all the ſhops, and other buildings, ſo lately erected on the green bank, were intirely conſumed. But this accident, however terrible in itſelf, was upon the whole not unſerviceable to the place, becauſe, like ancient[23] Rome, if ſmall things may be compared with the greateſt, it roſe more glorious from 1687.

[23] "Rome, properly ſpeaking, was at firſt but "a ſorry village, whereof even the principal in- "habitants followed their own ploughs; and, "until it was rebuilt after the burning of it by "the Gauls, did not deſerve the name of a city. "Such were the beginnings of the capital of the "world!"

Hooke's Rom. Hiſt. Vol. 1. p. 22.

1684. its aſhes, the buildings being afterwards more regularly planned, and better contrived, both for the convenience of the inhabitants, and the ornament of the walks; upon which, ſince this accident, an aſſembly-room, coffee-houſes, ſhops, and dwelling-houſes have been erected in one continued line, and a convenient portico placed in front, and carried on from the upper end of the parade quite down to the well.

1688. In the ever memorable year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and eighty-eight, princeſs Anne of Denmark was at Tunbridge-Wells, and ſent her gentleman waiter, colonel Sands, from thence to enquire after the health of the new-born ſuppoſed prince of Wales; at which viſit of the colonel's ſome remarkable [24] circumſtances are ſaid

[24] Tindal's Rapin, Vol. 2. p. 767.

ſaid to have happened, which, if the ſtory may be depended upon, muſt greatly ſtrengthen the opinion that this pretended prince was an impoſition on the britiſh nation. 1688.

This princeſs ſeveral ſeaſons ſucceſſively honoured the place with her preſence, and was a great benefactreſs to it. She gave the baſon to the ſpring called the "Queen's-well" which is ſituated on the left hand as you enter the area, and diſtinguiſhed from the other by its iron bars. 1696.

In one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ninety-eight, her royal highneſs took her ſon, the young duke of Gloceſter, with her to the Wells, and was made ſenſible of the utility of paving the walks by a fall which he got, in his play with other children, juſt after 1698.

ſome

1698. ſome rain had increaſed the natural ſlipperineſs of the ſoil ſurrounding the ſprings: and at her going away ſhe left money for this purpoſe in the hands of one of the principal inhabitants, with an injunction to get the work completed againſt the enſuing ſummer; but he, vainly flattering himſelf the princeſs would viſit the place no more, knaviſhly delayed the work ſo long that her royal highneſs returned to the Wells before any progreſs was made in it. This neglect very much diſguſted the princeſs, who thereupon inſtantly quitted the place, and never deigned to enter it again; but, before ſhe went, ſhe took effectual methods to have the pavement carried on with proper diligence, by deputing a ſuperintendent, who never ſuffered the work to be intermitted till it was intirely finiſhed.

On

On the acceſſion of this princeſs to the throne of Great Britain, the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells, deſirous of tranſmitting to poſterity ſome teſtimony of the ſenſe they retained of the many favours conferred upon them by her majeſty, planted the "Queen's-grove" on the common, for a growing monument of gratitude to their royal and generous benefactreſs. 1702.

In one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and eight, the cold-bath at Ruſthall was built by Mr. James Long at a very conſiderable expence. This bath is eſteemed equal to any in the kingdom, being moſt plentifully ſupplied with the fineſt rock water from the neighbouring hills. The bath was at firſt adorned with amuſing water-works, and had a handſome and convenient houſe over it, in every room of which 1708.

1703. which was ſomething curious, calculated to divert and ſurpriſe the company. The ground and gardens belonging to the bath were elegantly laid out, and embelliſhed with fountains, and other ornaments ſuitable to the place; in ſhort, the whole was moſt completely diſpoſed for a ſcene of amuſement. But all this is now far gone in decay through the want of management, and the neglect of the late proprietors, who have ſuffered the houſe to fall, and the gardens to lie waſte and wild; but the bath itſelf is well preſerved, and lately a plain unornamented building has been raiſed over it, which, though it retains none of the beauties of the former elegant ſtructure, is perhaps full as uſeful as the old one.

Within theſe very few years, another

ther cold-bath has been erected, about 1708.
a furlong from the walks, which, on account of its nearneſs to the Wells, and its being neatly fitted up in a pretty retired ſituation, will probably continue in uſe, though it certainly cannot in any reſpect be compared to the ancient bath.

About the year one thouſand, ſeven 1726.
hundred, and twenty-ſix, the lord of the manor's building leaſe expired, and as the tenants juſtly imagined they had a right to ſome compenſation for the loſs of the herbage that was covered by his houſes, they claimed a ſhare in the buildings. This occaſioned a tedious law-ſuit between the lord and the tenants, which, after a prodigious expence, was finally determined in favour of the latter, who were adjudged to have a juſt claim to a third part of the

1726 to 1740. the buildings, then erected on the eſtate, for their rights of herbage: whereupon all the ſhops and houſes on this eſtate were divided into three equal lots, of which the tenants were to draw one, and the other two were to remain with the lord; and, luckily for the tenants, they happened to draw the middle lot, which included the aſſembly-room on the walk, and has turned out the beſt of the three. After this the landlord and tenants entered into a long agreement, to reſtrain and prevent the increaſe of buildings on the manor, which was confirmed and eſtabliſhed by an act of parliament, that paſſed the royal aſſent on the twenty-ninth of April, one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and forty.

His royal highneſs Frederick, the late prince of Wales, and her royal high-

neſs

neſs the preſent princeſs dowager of Wales, were at Tunbridge-Wells in the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and thirty-nine. 1726 to 1740.

Her royal highneſs the princeſs Amelia has frequently honoured the place with her preſence, and, particularly, was there ſo lately as in the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and ſixty-two; when his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland was alſo there. 1762.

Their royal highneſſes, the dukes of York and Gloceſter, were at Tunbridge-Wells about the middle of September, in one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and ſixty-five. On their arrival they were welcomed by a triple diſcharge of eighteen pieces of cannon, and in the evening the 1765.

walks

1765. walks were moſt ſplendidly illuminated, upon which occaſions they always make a magnificent appearance.

Their royal highneſſes continued there two nights, viewed the High-rocks and other beautiful environs of the Wells, entered, with that noble affability ſo peculiar to their illuſtrious family, into all the amuſements of the place, and, notwithſtanding the ſeaſon's being ſo far declined, ſeemed at their departure to be much pleaſed with their expedition, and the loyal reception they met with.

1766. The place itſelf is now in a very flouriſhing ſtate, with a great number of good houſes for lodgings, and all neceſſary accommodations for company; its cuſtoms are ſettled, its pleaſures regulated, its markets and all

other conveniencies fixed, and the whole very properly adapted to the nature of a place, which is at once design-to give health and pleasure to all its visitants. 1766.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Air of Tunbridge-Wells.

SOME account of the air of Tunbridge-Wells will certainly be esteemed necessary to render this work tolerably compleat, because, as a public place resorted to by invalids for the recovery and re-establishment of health, nothing can be of greater importance than a knowledge thereof. Air.

Air is undoubtedly such a necessary instrument of life, that without it we cannot subsist for more than a few

Air. moments; and it is very obvious to every reflecting mind, that, where it is impregnated with undue mixtures, it muſt of courſe produce, or aggravate diſeaſes: from whence it follows that it is a duty highly incumbent on all who ſtudy the preſervation of that health they now enjoy, and ſtill more ſo upon thoſe who would recover that which is loſt, to make choice of ſuch a ſituation as affords the freeſt and moſt equable air, where it is leaſt impregnated with the noxious effluvia of ſubterraneous exhalations, or loaded with the vapours continually ariſing from a humid ſoil: and where, on the other hand, it is not ſo dry and attractive as too faſt to imbibe the attenuated lymph exhaled from the blood; but rather, where the nature of the ſoil, the happy ſituation of the place, and

and the ſurer teſt of experience, all unitedly evidence its wholeſomeneſs. Air.

And in all theſe reſpects, impartially ſpeaking, the air of Tunbridge-Wells moſt certainly excels. The country is not ſo low and moiſt as to be ſubject to thick fogs, or any marks of a vapourous air; neither is it raiſed to ſuch an exalted height as to have its atmoſphere too much rarified, or be too much expoſed to the bleak northern or eaſtern winds; from the latter eſpecially it is well defended by a long range of high hills. The ſoil of the country in general is tolerably fruitful, and even the moſt barren parts of it are eaſily cultivated, which evidences that the air, though naturally dry, is not too ſharp and rigid for the human conſtitution; and the multitude of ſweet herbs, as wild thyme, &c. with

Air. which the whole country is over-ſpread, affords a ſolid proof of its ſweetneſs and purity.

On the little hills of Mount Ephraim and Mount-Sion, it is remarkable that a gentle fragrant breeze unceaſingly prevails, through all the ſummer months; which, in the hotteſt weather, generally keeps them mild and temperate. And it is acknowledged by every author who has occaſionally mentioned the place, as well as by thoſe who have profeſſedly wrote on the ſubject, that this air is extremely benign, pure, and wholeſome.

And in all probability the air of Tunbridge-Wells has the additional advantage of being, in ſome degree, impregnated with the effluvia of thoſe health ful ingredients with which the water ſo eminently

eminently abounds; and, if this is the case, it must of course not only render the fruit, the herbs, and the other aliments of the country, more wholesome, but also by this means, as well as by the suction of the lungs, and regular drinking, convey the salutary properties of the water into the minutest vessels of the body. Air.

But, be this as it will, it is a certain fact, attested by continually repeated experience, that aged people and all persons of a relaxed and enfeebled constitution do, almost immediately upon coming into this country, perceive the happy effects of its air, by an invigoration of their bodily powers, and an additional sprightliness of mind, enabling them to communicate, and to receive every social pleasure with an unusual satisfaction, never known in the dense fuligi-

Air. nous air of London, or in the loaded atmoſphere of damp and vapourous ſituations. And this is ſuch a convincing teſtimony of the beneficial nature of the air of Tunbridge-Wells, as cannot fail of very ſtrongly recommending it to thoſe unhappy valetudinarians, whoſe relaxed fibres loudly call for its aſſiſting influence to renew their original elaſticity, and to brace them up for future action.

Chapter V.

Of the medicinal Water at Tunbridge-Wells.

Water. THE next thing that naturally preſents itſelf to our obſervation is the water, to which the country we are treating of owes all its diſtinction.

The

The whole neighbourhood of Tunbridge-Wells abounds with ſprings of mineral water; but, as the properties of all are nearly the ſame, only thoſe two which, at their firſt diſcovery, were adjudged the beſt, are held in any particular eſtimation. Water.

Theſe two wells are incloſed with a handſome triangular ſtone wall; and, within this wall, are ſurrounded by a well paved area, into which you deſcend, by a few ſteps, through a noble gateway. Over the ſprings are placed two convenient [26] baſons of Portland ſtone, with perforations at the bottom through which they receive the water, and with an opening on the edge to diſcharge the overflowings, which are

[26] One of theſe baſons was given by queen Anne, and the other by the lord of the manor.

Water. carried to the neighbouring brook by a little drain cut in the pavement.

The water itſelf at the ſpring is extremely clear and bright, without any ſort of colour: its taſte is pleaſingly ſteely, it has hardly any perceptible ſmell, though ſometimes, in a denſe air, its ferruginous exhalations are very diſtinguiſhable: and, in point of heat, it is invariably temperate, let the atmoſphere be in whatever ſtate it will; for this is one of thoſe ſprings which lie ſo deep in the bowels of the earth, that it can neither be affected by the ſcorching ſun-beams of the ſummer, nor the ſevereſt froſts of the winter.

When it is firſt taken up in a large glaſs, its particles continue at reſt, till it is warmed to nearly the heat of the atmoſphere, then a few airy globules begin

begin to ſeparate themſelves and adhere to the ſides of the veſſel; and, in a few hours more, a light copper-coloured ſcum begins to ſwim on the ſurface; after which an ochreous ſediment ſettles at the bottom. The ſcum of this water is really an object of curioſity when detached from the water itſelf, which is eaſily done by introducing a piece of writing paper under it: the paper, when dry, appears to be gilt; and, when examined through a microſcope, reſembles a piece of rich embroidery ornamented with ſtuds of gold. Water.

Long continued rains ſometimes give the water a milky appearance, but do not otherwiſe ſenſibly affect it.

From the experiments of different phyſicians, it appears that the component

Water. nent parts of this water are—ſteely particles, marine ſalts, an oily matter, an ochreous ſubſtance, ſimple water, and a volatile vitriolic ſpirit, too ſubtile for any chemical analyſis.—In weight it is, in ſeven ounces and a quarter, four grains lighter than the German Spa, and ten grains lighter than common water: and it requires five drops of oleum ſulphuris or elixir vitrioli to a quart of water to preſerve its virtues at a diſtance from the ſpring; but to drink it in perfection recourſe muſt always be had to the fountain-head.

The water is ſaid to be an impregnation of rain in ſome of the neighbouring eminences, which, in common with moſt other elevated ſituations in theſe northern parts of the globe, providentially abound in iron mineral, and where,

where, by a nice natural chemiſtry in- Water.
finitely ſuperior to the utmoſt efforts of art, the water is further inriched with the marine ſalts, and all thoſe valuable ingredients whereby it is conſtituted a light and pure chalybeate, which inſtantly pervades the moſt remote receſſes of the human frame, warms and invigorates the relaxed conſtitution, reſtores the weakened fibres to their due tone and elaſticity, removes every obſtruction to which the minuter veſſels of the body are liable, and becomes thereby adapted to moſt cold chronical diſorders, lowneſs of ſpirits, weak digeſtions, and nervous complaints.

But that i may the leaſt miſtake, in a matter i am not qualified to diſcuſs without borrowed light, i muſt now ſummon to my aid the moſt diſtinguiſhed

Water. guiſhed of thoſe phyſicians who have wrote upon this ſubject.

And here i cannot but lament it as a public misfortune, that no regular phyſician has conſtantly reſided in the place to regiſter caſes; and that no gentleman of the faculty who has of late years occaſionally attended it in the time of the ſeaſon, has thought himſelf ſufficiently intereſted in the ſucceſs of the water, to take the trouble of communicating the full reſult of his particular experience. [27]

But, notwithſtanding this neglect, we

[27] If any phyſician ſhould hereafter reſide on the ſpot, or for many years ſucceſſively attend the place, it is to be hoped he will in a great meaſure remove the cauſe of this complaint, by keeping an hiſtory of his own practice; which probably may in time be of eſſential ſervice, towards forming an experimental hiſtory of the nature and properties of Tunbridge-Wells-Water.

we are not without many authentic testimonies of the efficacious effects of this water, in the cure of numerous diseases incident to human nature, in the writings of learned physicians, as well as in the experience of multitudes who are annually benefited thereby. Water.

Doctor Lodowick Rowzee, who many years attended the place, has professedly wrote "a treatise upon the nature and virtues of Tunbridge water;" and, from the experience which he acquired in his close attendance at the Wells, has judiciously pointed out a great number of diseases in which it is extremely serviceable.

This gentleman most strongly recommends Tunbridge-Wells-Water as an effectual deobstruent, which very suc-

Water. ſucceſsfully opens all manner of obſtructions, however ſtubborn and obſtinate they may be; and conſequently is of eſſential ſervice in all diſeaſes proceeding from this fruitful ſource, ſuch as tedious agues, the black and yellow jaundice, ſchirrus of the ſpleen, ſcurvy, green ſickneſs, fluor albus, and in the menſes deficient or redundant; in the firſt by opening obſtructions, in the ſecond by cooling the blood when too hot and fluxile, and by corroborating the organs of that excretion when too much weakened.

He alſo ſays that Tunbridge-Wells-Water ſcowers and cleanſes all the urinary paſſages, and therefore is good againſt the gravel and ſtone in the kidnies, the ureters, or the bladder, particularly in the beginning attacks of this diſorder, before the earthy parts

of

of the urine are ſettled and concreted in the ſlimy humours which are the firſt foundation of this diſeaſe: and he farther maintains, that, from its aſtringent and healing properties, it is an effectual remedy for all inward ulcers, eſpecially for thoſe of the liver, the kidnies, and the bladder; and in this opinion of mineral ſteely waters doctor Rowzee is ſupported by "Scribonius Largus" and by "Archigenes" in "Ætius", who have ſtrongly recommended their uſe in the like caſes. This doctor alſo ſays they are good in bloody urine, and in diſſolving and waſhing away a kind of clammy phlegmatic excrement, ſometimes bred in the bladder, and which ſo exactly mimics all the ſymptoms of the ſtone as to deceive the moſt experienced. Water.

He alſo aſſerts it is good againſt invete-

Water. veterate dyſenteries and all other fluxes of the belly, that it extinguiſhes all inward inflammations, and hot diſtempers, without the leaſt hurting the ſtomach by its coldneſs; but on the contrary ſo greatly corroborates and ſtrengthens it, that in ſome it provokes too great an appetite. It is alſo good he ſays in the cholic proceeding from tough tartareous phlegm, in vomiting, the hiccup, and in worms; likewiſe in the gonorrhœa ſimplex et venerea, in caruncles of the urethra, as being of a remarkable drying faculty; and in paralytic diſorders, a tendency to apoplexy, and lethargic complaints, as ſtrengthening the brain and origin of the nerves; and from the ſame cauſe of remarkable efficacy in hypochondriacal diſorders. And to this he adds, that, in external uſe, it helps ſore eyes, red pimples, and other cutaneous infir-

infirmities, "and i muſt not forget, Water.
"ſays the doctor, in behalf of the
"women, that there is nothing better
"againſt barrenneſs, and to make
"them fruitful, if other good and
"fitting means, ſuch as their ſeveral
"caſes may require, be duly joined
"with the water."

That eminently able phyſician, doctor Allen, is another who has given public teſtimony in favour of the water of Tunbridge-Wells, and particularly enumerated many of the caſes in which, in the courſe of his practice, he found it an efficacious remedy. I tranſcribe his account of the medicinal uſes of this water from "Rutty's "Synopſis," with only a trifling variation of expreſſion in the firſt article, where his perplexed manner has rendered an alteration neceſſary:

Water.

" Doctor Allen obſerves —

" I. It is an effectual remedy in " obſtructions of the glands of the " meſentery, wherein, beſides the " ſigns of chylous excrement and re- " jection of food an hour or two after " eating, the patient has no com- " plaint neither of want of appetite, " diſcernible fever, nor any other diſ- " order, until the diſeaſe is continued " ſo long as to induce a cough, a fe- " ver, a want of reſt, and a loſs of " fleſh. In this caſe, of which there " are not a few inſtances, Tunbridge- " Wells-Water hath not failed thoſe " who have tried it.

" II. This water hath proved alſo " an effectual remedy in recent drop- " ſies, in thoſe whoſe conſtitution is " broken by trouble, and in the " phlegmatic, whoſe blood wants in-

" vigo-

" vigorating. And its effects are no Water.
" leſs conſiderable in diſorders of the
" ſtomach, and particularly exquiſite
" pains, eſpecially convulſive ones, in
" in the hypochondriacal and flatu-
" lent cholic.

" III. A painful tumour, at the
" pit of the ſtomach, of many years
" ſtanding, and reputed ſchirrus, was
" removed by this water. A fiſtula,
" of many years ſtanding, was effec-
" tually cured in ſix weeks by the
" ſole drinking of it. More than one
" ulceration of the kidnies hath been
" cured thereby. And a gentlewo-
" man, who for many years had never
" eſcaped an aſſault of a periodical
" fever and cough in October, was
" freed therefrom by drinking this
" water."

Water. " Doctor Slare, continues Rutty, " aſſures us this water is an effectual " remedy in obſtinate and inveterate " diarrhœas.

" Doctor Linden eſteems it of the " moſt ſingular efficacy in curing " the remains of the venereal diſor- " der: in which caſe, he ſays, he has " known it of ſuch eminent ſervice, " that he holds it almoſt neceſſary " for all, who have gone through a " courſe of phyſic or ſalivation, to " cloſe with drinking the chalybeate " water; which is ſovereignly good " to recover and ſtrengthen the tone " of the weakened and injured veſſels, " and to extirpate the remains of " mercury lurking in the body after " the cure of this diſorder."

And here it would be an unpardon-

able

able neglect not to mention one virtue in this water, which, though more univerſally acknowledged than all the others, and moſt inconteſtably eſtabliſhed on the firm foundation of frequently repeated experience, has too generally been omitted by the writers upon this ſubject. I mean its prolific qualities, of which every ſeaſon furniſhes renewed and often ſurprizing proofs. It has indeed an amazing efficacy in ſtrengthening, and cleanſing the generative organs, and removing the complaint of unfruitfulneſs, eſpecially when it proceeds from a cold, moiſt, and relaxed habit of body, too weak for the purpoſes of conception, whether it is occaſioned by the irregular manner of living, or derived from the original conſtitution of the patient. This water has been ſo wonderfully Water.

Water. ſucceſsful, in almoſt innumerable caſes of this kind, that, if it had no other virtue, this alone would be ſufficient to render it famous, and to make it invaluable: but that, beſides this, it is in the higheſt degree ſerviceable in all other female complaints, and all the diſeaſes pointed out by the forecited phyſicians, when it is properly taken and judiciouſly aſſiſted, is a matter of fact ſo well well atteſted and confirmed by ſuch a long ſeries of experience, that it will not now admit of the leaſt ſhadow of diſpute amongſt men of candour and judgment.

CHAPTER VI.

Some general obſervations on the diet proper for patients, and on the time and manner of drinking the medicinal water of Tunbridge-Wells.

Advice and regularity neceſſary with the water.

WHEN all thoſe virtues mentioned in the preceding chapter are aſcribed to Tunbridge-Wells water, we muſt not by any means be underſtood to ſuppoſe that the water alone, without regular management and ſuitable aſſiſtance, is capable of curing thoſe numerous diſorders. No,—as well may you expect to have an houſe built by throwing the materials into a heap, as to have a diſeaſe removed by an irregular and injudicious uſe of any mineral water whatſoever. It is therefore neceſſary, in order to inſure all the ſucceſs that may be reaſonably

Advice and regularity neceſſary with the water.

expected from an application to this noble remedy, that patients ſhould be regular in their living and exerciſes, and well adviſed as to the manner of preparing themſelves, the time of drinking, and the quantity which they may be able to bear without injury to their conſtitutions.

Diet.

As to living, temperance in eating, drinking, ſleep, and exerciſe, is ſo obviouſly neceſſary to every valetudinarian, that none can have any room to think of recovering health without it. In order therefore to give the water fair play, it is proper to uſe moderate exerciſe, and eſpecially gentle riding, during the whole time of drinking it; to be temperate in ſleep, and leave the bed tolerably early in the morning; to baniſh care and melancholy from the mind, and encourage mirth and good humour;

humour; to live with regularity on wholeſome food; to uſe good well-baked bread, made of pure wheat; and ſuch kinds of meat as yield good nouriſhment and are eaſy of digeſtion; avoiding rich ſauces and a variety of diſhes, and eating with ſome reſerve, enough to ſatisfy nature, but not to encourage gluttony. Diet.

As to the time of drinking the water, it is generally ſuppoſed, that all chalybeate waters are in their higheſt perfection from May to October, and that they are moſt ſerviceable in warm and dry weather; but it muſt not be underſtood, that their virtues are ſo abſolutely confined to one ſeaſon, as to be uſeleſs in all others; on the contrary, it is an allowed fact, that in hard froſt the Tunbridge water is ſtronger than at any other time, becauſe then the Time of drinking the water.

Time of drinking the water.

the evaporation of the volatile ſpirit is retarded, and the water conſequently rendered more penetrating and active by its detention, from whence ariſes an increaſe of efficacy in many caſes.

And here it may be proper to obſerve, that it is a great miſtake of thoſe writers, who aſſert—"that the water "is at ſuch times intollerably cold to "the throat, mouth, and ſtomach, ſo "that it muſt chill the drinker be-"fore its ſpiritous parts can come into action[38]." In contradiction to this unfair repreſentation, i refer to what has been already ſaid, viz. "that "the water is invariably temperate, let "the atmoſphere be in whatever ſtate "it will;" and, as this is ſo far from being peculiar to Tunbridge water, that it is the well-known property of almoſt

[38] Vide Lucas on Water.

almoſt all perennial ſprings, it is the more ſurprizing that any gentleman acquainted with the ſubject ſhould fall into ſuch an error. The water in the baſon may indeed be affected with very ſevere froſts, and ſometimes, in extremely hard weather, it has been frozen; but, on emptying this away, the freſh water that ariſes will be much warmer than the external atmoſphere, and may be drank with pleaſure at any time; or, if it ſhould be eſteemed too cold for ſome ſtomachs, the evil is eaſily remedied, by keeping a little hot water always at hand to pour into the glaſs juſt as it is put to the lips, which, if managed with tolerable quickneſs, may be done without danger of evaporating the mineral ſpirit.

Time of drinking the water.

It is therefore on good ground, that the doctors Rouzee and Linden have conjectured,

Time of drinking the water.

conjectured, that this water would be as good and efficacious in frosty weather, as in the heat of summer; and that, if the nobility and gentry, who attend the public business in town during the winter season, would in their vacations visit Tunbridge-Wells, situate as it is at an easy distance, and drink the water in clear weather, it is reasonable to conclude it would be the mean of prolonging many a valuable life, and of preserving an uninterrupted state of health, by removing those obstructions of the minuter vessels, which a full diet, sedentary life, and much application of mind, in the less pure air of a great and populous city too readily occasion.

But, as the summer is the only season at present employed in drinking this water, we will return to that happy

py period; and then it is ſaid, that the beſt time of day for this purpoſe is ſoon in the morning, before the ſun has reached any great height, or at leaſt before it has attained force enough to raiſe the mineral ſpirit, and ſo that the quantity preſcribed may be drank, and tolerably well digeſted be- before breakfaſt. And, beſides the advantages reſulting from a light ſtomach, riſing in a morning, and the early exerciſe preſcribed by this method, tend greatly to exhilarate the ſpirits, and thus every way add to the natural efficacy of the water. But, uſeful, and indeed neceſſary, as this method is in moſt caſes, it is not without its diſadvantages to ſome people, and eſpecially on their firſt coming to the place; for the Tunbridge-Wells water, of itſelf, cauſes an unuſual ſleepineſs in many perſons, which cannot

Time of drinking the water.

Time of drinking the water.

but be increaſed by early hours, in thoſe who have uſually indulged a contrary habit; however, a ſparing uſe of the waters at firſt, a little moderate exerciſe, and agreeable diverting company, will ſoon remove this complaint, without any medicinal aſſiſtance; and this is a complaint which muſt be obviated as ſoon as can be, and ſtrenuouſly reſiſted by any body who expects to receive benefit from the water, becauſe ſleeping, before the water is properly diſcharged from the blood, occaſions head-achs, and other diſorders, which may furniſh cauſe to new maladies.

Quantity of water drank each day.

As to the quantity of water to be drank each day, there can be no general rules given, but what muſt be expoſed to innumerable objections, becauſe it muſt be ſuited to every one's particular

particular caſe, and probably will require to be increaſed and diminiſhed, according to the different ſtages and variations of the complaint. It is therefore neceſſary that this ſhould be regulated by ſome underſtanding phyſician, who is well acquainted with the nature of the water, and the conſtitution and diſorder of the patient.

Quantity of water drank each day.

There certainly is a very wide difference, with reſpect to quantity, between the uſage of the preſent age, and of the time when the ſprings were firſt diſcovered; but, whether this alteration in practice be for the advantage of the diſeaſed, or not, it would be great preſumption in me to pretend to determine; however, from ſome recent and remarkable inſtances that have happened to fall under my own obſervation, i muſt confeſs i am prejudiced

Quantity of water drank each day.

ced in favour of a more copious quantity than now is generally drank. But, if in the preſent practice too little is generally allowed, it is very highly probable that our anceſtors ran as much into the contrary extreme, when they preſcribed ſix, and even nine quarts in a morning, for a cuſtomary doſe. It was indeed neceſſary to riſe early, and to work hard, to digeſt ſo large a quantity of water before breakfaſt!

How long patients ſhould drink the water.

The ſame that is above ſaid of the quantity, may alſo be applied to the time of continuing to drink this water, ſince it is equally neceſſary that this ſhould be determined in conformity to the different caſes of patients by the judgment of phyſicians: in ſome perhaps a few weeks may ſuffice, in others months are not enough, and with ſome

ſome it may be neceſſary to attend it year after year to perfect a cure.

How long patients ſhould drink the water.

Here i cannot refrain from inſerting an obſervation, originally made by doctor Rowzee, and adopted by ſome later writers, viz. that it is neceſſary, in order to prevent the bad effects that may ariſe from prematurely taking or forſaking ſo powerful and active a medicine as theſe ſpirituous ferruginous waters are, to begin cautiouſly with a ſmall quantity, to riſe by degrees to the proper pitch, and, having continued there as long as is judged expedient, then to decline and decreaſe by the ſame ſlow degrees and leave off at the quantity begun with.

By thus drinking the Tunbridge-Wells-Water, by living temperately, and by entering chearfully into all the

How long patients should drink the water.

amuſing pleaſures of the place, many, in time paſt, have recovered their healths, and re-eſtabliſhed their conſtitutions, who were in all appearance haſtening to their graves; and it is not to be reaſonably doubted, but that the ſame methods will, through the bleſſing of providence, be attended with equally happy effects, to the lateſt poſterity.

Chapter VII.

A deſcription of Tunbridge-Wells in its preſent ſtate.

Situation of Tunbridge-Wells.

Tunbridge-Wells is ſituated on the ſouthern ſide of the county of Kent, juſt on the borders of Suſſex, and about thirty-ſix miles from London. It is partly built in Tunbridge pariſh, partly in Frant pariſh, and partly in Speldhurſt pariſh; and conſiſts

consists of four little villages, named Mount-Ephraim, Mount-Pleasant, Mount-Sion, and the Wells; which, all united together, form a considerable town; whose boundaries are Tunbridge on the north, Lamberhurst on the east, a large uncultivated [29] Forest

Situation of Tunbridge-Wells.

H 2 on

[29] What pity that such an extensive tract should yet continue an uncultivated waste, although experience has demonstrated how capable it is of improvement! But the time, perhaps, may yet arrive when our successors, exulting in the happy effects of their industry, shall have cause to say,

"Not thus the land appear'd in ages past,
"A gloomy desart, and a dreary waste."

POPE.

And i am persuaded this would soon be the case, if the noble lord, to whom it belongs, would get a power to sell it off in parcels at some easy quitrent, so as to make it worth the purchaser's while to improve it. Thus in all probability this part of his lordship's estate would be more than trebled in value, and his country inestimably benefited, by extending and encouraging the arts of agriculture, as well as by affording the means of subsistence to innumerable families of industri-

ous

Situation of Tunbridge-Wells.

on the ſouth, and Eaſt-Grinſtead on the weſt.

The Wells, properly ſo called, is the center of buſineſs and pleaſure, becauſe there the markets, the medicinal water, the chapel, the aſſembly-rooms, and the public parades are ſituated.

The Wells deſcribed.

Theſe parades are uſually called the upper and the lower walk; the firſt being neatly paved with ſquare brick, raiſed about four ſteps above the other, and parti-

ous poor, and contributing to the populouſneſs of this kingdom, in which the decreaſe of uſeful inhabitants is become a ſerious complaint. And thus too his lordſhip might profitably enjoy that noble pleaſure of which the celebrated Aaron Hill was once ſo warmly ambitious—"I would (ſays "he ſpeaking of this very foreſt) have tamed the "native wildneſs of an aboriginal remnant veſ-"tige of the world's old ſurface, and have ſeen "the birth, and education of a mighty vegetable "progeny, ariſing to defend and honour me."

Hill's Works, Vol. 2. page 255.

particularly appropriated to the company; the ſecond remains unpaved, and is chiefly uſed by country people and ſervants. The Wells deſcribed.

On the right hand of the paved walk in the way from the well is the aſſembly-room, the coffee-houſes, and the ſhops for ſilver-ſmiths, jewellers, milleners, bookſellers, Tunbridge-ware, &c. From thence a portico is extended the whole length of the parade, ſupported by Tuſcan pillars, for the company to walk under occaſionally. This walk is ſhaded by a long row of large and flouriſhing trees planted on the left hand of it, in the midſt of which is erected a gallery for the muſick; and the whole is properly ſeparated from the lower walk by a range of neat paliſades, oppoſite to which are the taverns, a few decent lodg-

The Wells described.

ing-houſes, and a very elegant aſſembly-room, with a coffee-houſe, and all needful conveniencies for the entertainment of company.

The markets for fiſh, meat, poultry, wild-fowl and all other proviſions, with which they are every day extremely well and plentifully ſupplied, are on the left hand ſide, and at the bottom of the upper walk; and the chapel is juſt adjoining on the other ſide of the well, which makes it in all reſpects very convenient to the company, who are, by this diſpoſition of the place, enabled to purſue their buſineſs, and their devotions, without quiting the ſcene of their pleaſures.

Mount-Sion.

The lodging-houſes are moſtly ſituated on the hills before mentioned, and

particularly on [30] Mount-Sion, where there are a great many good houſes built in regular confuſion, and ſo beautifully intermixed with trees and groves, that they cannot fail of having a moſt pleaſing effect on a ſtranger. At a little diſtance, it bears the appearance of a town in the midſt of woods, and conveys to the imagination the ſoothing idea of a rural romantic retirement, while it actually affords all the conveniencies of a city life. Mount-Sion.

This hill being open to Waterdown-foreſt on the ſouth, and ſhielded from the eaſtern winds by Calverley's-plain, always enjoys a pure wholeſome air; and,

[30] One of the firſt houſes built upon this hill was an alehouſe, to which the whimſical landlord, whoſe name was Mathews, affixed the ſign of Mount-Sion, from whence the name of the hill is derived.

Mr. W. S.

Mount-Sion.

and, on account of its being ſituated at ſo convenient a diſtance from the Wells, it generally ſupplies lodgings for the principal part of the company in the ſeaſon.

An excellent bowling-green, the old aſſembly-room, and a capacious handſome [31] Preſbyterian meeting-houſe, are all ſituated upon Mount-Sion.

Mount-Pleaſant.

Mount-Pleaſant gives ſite to a noble modern brick houſe, built, in a genteel taſte, upon the brow of this delightful hill, which commands an extenſive proſpect of the place. This was lately the property of the right honourable the earl of Egmont; but is

[31] This was opened on the firſt of Auguſt, one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and twenty. And a Methodiſt meeting-houſe has alſo been erected at Tunbridge-Wells ſince the riſe of that deluded ſect.

is now poſſeſſed by Mr. William Gratton, maſter of the Gloceſter-tavern. The ſituation of this houſe is extremely happy, the ground and gardens belonging to it are well diſpoſed, and on the whole it truly deſerves the name it has acquired. Mount Pleaſant.

There are only two other houſes on this hill worth mentioning, and they are not to be let for lodgings, being both inhabited by the proprietors. Mr. George Weller's houſe on the [32] Culverden adjoining to this hill, is indeed a good building, and as happily ſituated as almoſt any houſe in the place. There once was a conſiderable number of lodging-houſes in this part of the The Culverden.

[32] In this part of the place, while it continued an uncultivated wood, the Culver Pigeon was found in great plenty, from which circumſtance the name of Culverden is derived.

Mr. W. S.

The Culverden. the place, but they now are all gone to decay except the one above-mentioned.

Mount-Ephraim. Mount-Ephraim, on account of its diſtance from the water, hath loſt much of its former regard; but, though it is no longer the principal part of the place; though its aſſembly-room is loſt, its bowling-green become a common field, and its taverns are turned into private houſes, yet it will ever remain a reſpectable and a uſeful quarter of Tunbridge-Wells.

The houſes on this hill are all very good buildings, have the advantage of being ſurrounded with capacious gardens, groves, and pleaſant fields; and of commanding diverſified extenſive proſpects on every ſide; and the hill itſelf is ſituated in ſo exceeding fine an air

air as may well compenſate for all its diſadvantages. Its great diſtance from the walks can ſcarcely indeed be called a diſadvantage, ſince it makes it perhaps one of the moſt delightful places in the world, for thoſe who would mingle the ſolid charms of retirement with the more ſhewy amuſements of a public place. It is therefore not unreaſonable to conclude, that Mount-Ephraim will never be neglected by thoſe, who chuſe to keep an equipage in the place, and go to Tunbridge-Wells more for the recovery of health, than the enjoyment of pleaſure.

Mount-Ephraim.

The trade of Tunbridge-Wells is ſimilar to that of the Spa in Germany, and chiefly conſiſts in a variety of toys in wood, ſuch as tea-cheſts, dreſſing-boxes, ſnuff-boxes, punch-ladles, and numerous other little articles of the ſame

Trade.

Trade. ſame kind. Of theſe great quantities are ſold to the company in the ſummer, and eſpecially at their leaving the place, when it is cuſtomary for them to take Tunbridge fairings to their friends at home.

This ware takes its name from the place, on account of its employing a great number of hands, and being made there in a much neater manner than any where elſe in England. The wood principally uſed for this purpoſe is holly, which grows in great abundance in the ſurrounding country, and furniſhes a prodigious variety of the prettieſt ornamental inlays that can be imagined, ſome of which are ſo excellent in their kind, that it is hard to believe they are not aſſiſted by the pencil. But, beſides holly, they uſe no ſmall quantity of cherry-tree, plum-tree, yew, and ſycamore:

camore: the yew eſpecially is of late become very faſhionable, and the goods fineered with it are certainly exceſſively pretty. Trade.

To ſum up in few words what remains on this head, it may be obſerved in general, that the ſoil of this village is dry and healthful, the water for family uſe is excellent, the air is pure and enlivening, [33] all kinds of proviſions are Of the place in general.

[33] And, amongſt the reſt, that delicious bird, the Wheatear, is brought in great plenty from the South-Downs. This little bird, commonly called the engliſh ortolan, is not bigger than a lark, but is infinitely preferable in the fatneſs and delicacy of its fleſh. The manner of catching them is ſomething peculiar:——the ſhepherds make little holes in the Downs, covered with a turf about a foot long, and half a foot broad, in which they place ſnares of horſe-hair, and the birds, being very fearful of rain, run into theſe holes for ſhelter at the approach of every cloud, and thus are caught in prodigious numbers. They are brought to the Wells in their utmoſt perfection; but, as they

Of the place in general.

are plentiful and [34] reaſonable, the lodging-houſes are neatly furniſhed, and commodiouſly fitted up in the view with which they were originally built; the inhabitants are remarkably civil and obliging in their behaviour, nor generally undeſerving the character they have

they are in ſeaſon only in the midſt of ſummer, the heat of the weather, and their own fatneſs, make them ſo apt to corrupt, that the London poulterers dare not meddle with them: for which reaſon it is neceſſary for the epicure to go into the country, if he would indulge his appetite with one of the greateſt dainties in its kind.

[34] As the teſtimony of a ſtranger may have weight in this article, i tranſcribe the following paſſage from the "Tour through Great Britain, "Vol. 1. page 185."

"The air is excellent, and the proviſions of all "ſorts very reaſonable: particularly they are ſup- "plied with excellent fiſh of almoſt all ſorts from "Rye, and other towns on the ſea-coaſt; and i "ſaw a turbot of near twenty-pounds weight ſold "there for three ſhillings. In the mackarel ſea- "ſon they have them here from Haſtings within "three hours of their being taken out of the ſea; "and the difference, which that makes in their "goodneſs, i need not mention."

have [35] obtained of being honeſt and reaſonable in their dealings. The ſurrounding country, and eſpecially on the foreſt ſide, abounds with as fine airings as almoſt any part of England can boaſt; and, the diſtance from London being only about thirty-ſix miles, a daily poſt is eſtabliſhed, a ſtage coach regularly arrives every afternoon, the public papers come in there twice a day, and men of buſineſs, on any emergency, may get to town in four or five hours without difficulty, and, with the ſame eaſe, return again to their families, and partake of all the pleaſures of the country in their utmoſt perfection, in a place where town and country are ſo happily blended, as to afford all the advantages of retirement, without any of the inconveniencies of ſolitude.

Of the place in general.

[35] Linden on chalybeate water, p. 100.

CHAP-

Chapter VIII.

Of the amuſements of the company in the time of the ſeaſon—A poetical epiſtle from the reverend ——— at Tunbridge-Wells to Mrs. — in London.

Amuſements.

Tunbridge-Wells, in common with Bath, owes the preſent agreeable and judicious regularity of its amuſements, to the ſkilful aſſiduity of the celebrated Mr. Naſh; who firſt taught the people of faſhion how to buy their pleaſures, and to procure that eaſe and felicity they ſought for, without diminiſhing the happineſs of others.

Before that famous arbitrator of pleaſure aroſe to plan and improve the amuſements of the great, public pla-

ces,

ces, but little eſteemed in themſelves, were only reſorted to by invalids, to whom their medicinal waters were neceſſary; and, as the manners of that age were far removed from that eaſy politeneſs and refinement of behaviour which diſtinguiſhes the preſent, the company was generally diſunited and unſocial, conſequently the pleaſures to be found amongſt them were neither elegant nor diverting. This was the ſituation of things when Naſh made his firſt appearance at Bath, ſince which, public places have aroſe to a great degree of eminence in the faſhionable world, and Tunbridge-Wells, amongſt the reſt, has, from that period, become the general rendezvous of gaiety and politeneſs during the ſummer. Amuſements.

The following is an imperfect

Amuſe-ments. draught of the pleaſures that are there to be found.

Each family, on the firſt morning after their arrival, are early ſaluted by the muſic, which conſtantly attends in this manner, to welcome every new comer to the place; and, for this civility, it is uſual to make them a preſent of half-a-crown, or more, according to the fortune, rank, or diſpoſition of the perſon.

You then go down in a ſuitable undreſs to the public walk, which, on your approach, you will find reſounding with a confuſion of voices and inſtruments, that cannot fail of giving you a pleaſing idea of the place in general, and an agreeable foretaſte of the ſcenes in which you are ſoon to engage.

Here

Here your firſt buſineſs is to go to the well, taſte the water, and pay the cuſtomary fee, called a welcome penny to the dippers; you then proceed to the other public places, and there ſubſcribe according to your rank—at the aſſembly-room, a crown or more each perſon; at the coffee-houſe, the ſame for each gentleman, which entitles him to the uſe of pens, ink, paper, &c. again at the bookſeller's the ſubſcription is the ſame, for which you have the uſe of whatever book you pleaſe to read at your lodgings; and here alſo, as at the aſſembly-rooms, a book is open for the ladies. The muſic will next addreſs you in expectation of half-a-guinea, or as much more as you like, to pay them for their public play on the parade. Thus ſubſcriptions are ended till the clergyman's book is opened, and you may now freely en- Amuſements.

Amuſements. gage in all the amuſements of the place.

The company uſually appear on the parade between ſeven and eight o'clock in the morning, to drink the water, and practiſe the neceſſary exerciſe of walking, which is very ſufficient amuſement for an hour or two. They then return to their lodgings to breakfaſt, or elſe aſſemble together in parties at the tea-rooms, where it is cuſtomary for the gentlemen to treat the ladies, and their male-acquaintance, every one in their turn, and frequently to give a public breakfaſt to the whole company without exception; which, in fine weather, is often given under the trees upon the open walk, and attended with muſic the whole time.

After breakfaſt, it is faſhionable to attend

attend morning ſervice in the chapel, to take an airing in coaches, or on horſeback, to aſſemble round the card tables, to paſs the time in rural walks, to aſſociate together in the bookſeller's ſhop, there to [36] collect the harmleſs ſatire, or the panegyric of the day, or elſe to ſaunter upon the parade; every one according to his diſpoſition or the humour which then happens to be predominant. Amuſements.

When prayers are ended, the muſic, which had only ceaſed during the time of divine ſervice, ſtrikes up afreſh, and the company thickening upon the walks, divert themſelves with converſations as various as their different ranks and circumſtances; and ſo

[36] The long epiſtle annexed to this chapter is choſen as a ſpecimen of Tunbridge poetry, becauſe it contains the beſt account of the humours of the place of any thing i have yet ſeen.

Amuſements. various are they, that an attentive liſtener to the ſeveral parties would this moment fancy himſelf at the royal-exchange, and the next at the palace; now at an indian factory, or an american plantation, and then with the thrifty citizen ſecuring a plum, or the country gentleman improving an eſtate; this inſtant on board the fleet in the ocean, or with the brave and generous Granby purſuing victory in Germany, and then in the twinkling of an eye you are wafted from the rough hoarſe voice of war to the broken accents and tender warblings of love.

While a great part of the company are thus amuſing the time on the parade, others are no leſs agreeably employed at the milleners, the jewellers, and the other ſhops, where little raffles are carried on till the important call

call of dinner obliges the different parties to diſperſe. Amuſements.

Dinner finiſhed, the band of muſic again aſcends the orcheſtra, and you once more behold the company returning in crowds to the walks; but now the morning dreſs is laid aſide, and all appear in full and ſplendid attire, the higheſt finiſhings of art and expence being added to the prevailing power of beauty, the inſinuation of polite addreſs, and the dignity of rank and talents.

In theſe advantageous circumſtances, the general deſire of all is to ſee and be ſeen, till the hour of tea-drinking, when they aſſemble together, as in the morning, commonly at the expence of the gentlemen.

Gaming. This over, cards and all ſorts of lawful gaming ſucceed in the great rooms, which are ſupplied with a proper number of tables, and all neceſſary accommodations, and where the greateſt order and regularity are obſerved that can conſiſt with the liberty of a public place. To thoſe who, having no taſte for play, can attend to reflection in this ſcene of agreeable tumult, it muſt be pleaſant to obſerve youth and age, deformity and beauty, here ſide by ſide; and all the variety of ſocial good and ill qualities in full exertion and contraſt; while the parties engaged in play are too deeply intereſted in the ſucceſs of their game, to attend to any thing around them.

Public Balls. Twice in the week, that is, on tueſdays and fridays, there are public balls in the great aſſembly-rooms, where

where all ranks are mingled together without any diſtinction. The nobility, and the merchants; the gentry, and and the traders; are all upon an equal footing, without any body's having a right to be informed who you are, or whence you come, ſo long as you behave with that decorum which is ever neceſſary in genteel company. Public Balls.

The price of admittance to theſe balls is half-a-crown each for the gentlemen, and one ſhilling each for the ladies. They always begin at ſix o' clock in the evening, and end exactly at eleven; this being one of the immutable laws eſtabliſhed by Mr. Naſh, who thus wiſely provided againſt the invalids committing ſuch irregularities as ſhould counteract the benefit of the waters, and made them on the contrary rather ſubſervient to their efficacy

Public Balls.

ficacy, by exhilarating the ſpirits, and moderately exerciſing the body.

Every thing here is conducted with the utmoſt regularity. The ball is always opened with a minuet by two perſons of the higheſt diſtinction: when this is concluded the lady returns to her ſeat, and the maſter of the ceremonies brings the gentleman a new partner. The ſame order is obſerved by every ſucceeding couple, each gentleman being obliged to dance with two ladies, till the minuets are over. About eight o'clock the country dances begin, the ladies ſtanding up according to their rank, and theſe continue till a little after nine, when a ſhort interval is allowed for reſt, and tea is brought in; after which the company purſue their amuſement, without interruption, till the appointed hour of eleven.

Private

Private balls too are frequently given by people of faſhion in the height of the ſeaſon; and on theſe occaſions elegant ſuppers are generally provided. Private Balls.

Here are alſo frequent concerts of muſic, attended by the moſt eminent performers in London, where all thoſe who are happy in a taſte for this amiable ſcience, may be entertained with the moſt ſkilful performance, at the expence of a crown. Sometimes theſe concerts form a part of the morning amuſement under the name of Concert-breakfaſts, and then the price of tickets ſeldom exceeds three ſhillings and ſixpence. In theſe concerts, perſons of rank and fortune, who have a talent for muſic, are ſometimes admitted amongſt the performers, and find a pleaſure in joining with the maſters in this delightful ſcience. Concerts.

Another

High-Rocks.

Another ſpecies of Tunbridge amuſement conſiſts in parties of pleaſure to the High-Rocks, and other romantic ſcenes, with which the whole neighbourhood abounds. At theſe places there frequently are public breakfaſts, dinners, and tea-drinkings, attended with muſic and every incitement to chearfulneſs.

Lectures in Philoſophy.

Lectures upon the arts and ſciences, ſuperficial enough to entertain the imagination without fatiguing the underſtanding, form another part of the day's amuſement, to thoſe who are diſpoſed to attend upon them.

Country excurſions.

Excurſions to the noblemens and gentlemens ſeats, the founderies, and many remarkable places in the adjacent country, furniſh another pleaſurable employment of time at Tunbridge-Wells.

Wells. There are indeed several capital houses in the neighbourhood of this place, which, through the polite hospitality of the worthy proprietors, are always open to the inspection of the curious; and there are many pleasant villages, and agreeable prospects in the ways leading to them, that will not fail to attract the distinguishing observer. Country excursions.

Horse-racing makes another of the varied amusements of this place, and, though these races are not so famous as those of Newmarket, yet they will generally afford some diversion to those who, for the sake of the sport or the company, may be inclined to attend them. These races are principally supported by the present lord of the manor, Sir George Kelley, who frequently, Horse-races.

Horſe-races.

ly, ſince he came to the eſtate, has given a ſilver cup for this purpoſe.

Love and gallantry.

To the article of pleaſures may i add, though lateſt not the leaſt, the commerce of love and gallantry, and all thoſe delightful ſenſations ariſing from a free intercourſe between the ſexes. Such in ſhort, and ſo many, are the enjoyments of this abode, that they ſeldom are quitted without regret, by any who have entered upon them in a proper diſpoſition.

Coffee-houſe and Book-ſeller's ſhop.

But, additional to theſe, it is but juſtice to obſerve, before this article is dropped, that here are alſo amuſements of a higher nature, equally calculated for the diverſion and improvement of the ſerious and reflecting part of the company. The coffee-houſe, and the bookſeller's ſhop, are places where the

ſocial

ſocial virtues reign triumphant over prejudice and prepoſſeſſion. The eaſy freedom, and chearful gaiety, ariſing from the nature of a public place, extends its influence over them, and every ſpecies of party ſpirit is intirely ſtripped of thoſe malignant qualities which render it ſo deſtructive of the peace of mankind. Here divines and philoſophers, deiſts and chriſtians, whigs and tories, ſcotch and engliſh, debate without anger, diſpute with politeneſs, and judge with candour: while every one has an opportunity to diſplay the excellency of his taſte, the depth of his erudition, and the greatneſs of his capacity, in all kinds of polite literature, and in every branch of human knowledge. Coffee-houſe and Book-ſeller's ſhop.

The bookſeller's ſhop has indeed an advantage over the coffee-houſe, be- Book-ſeller's ſhop.

Book-seller's shop.

cauſe there the ladies are admitted; and, like ſo many living ſtars, ſhine in the greateſt ſplendor, while they evidence, that britiſh beauties are no leſs ſuperior to their ſex throughout the world, in the inward ornaments of the underſtanding, than they are univerſally allowed to be in the external graces of the body ——

——" faſhion'd all to harmony alone,
" They know to ſeize the captivated ſoul,
" In rapture warbled from love-breathing lips;
" To teach the lute to languiſh; with ſmooth
" ſtep,
" Diſcloſing motion in its every charm,
" To ſwim along, and ſwell the mazy dance;
" To train the foliage o'er the ſnowy lawn:
" To guide the pencil, turn the tuneful page;
" To lend new flavour to the fruitful year,
" To heighten nature's dainties; in their race
" To rear their graces into ſecond life;
" To give ſociety its higheſt taſte;
" Well-order'd home man's beſt delight to
" make;

" And

" And by ſubmiſſive wiſdom, modeſt ſkill,
" With every gentle care-eluding art
" To raiſe the virtues, animate the bliſs,
" And ſweeten all the toils of human life."

Thomſon's Autumn.

K A N

A N

EPISTLE

FROM

The Reverend —— at TUNBRIDGE-WELLS,

TO

Mrs. ------- in LONDON.

DEAR Nancy, how ſhall i employ
This whole long month in wi-
dow'd joy,
Without my firſt or ſecond love—
Thee firſt—the next my greek alcove?
I know you'll ſay--" theſe out of ſight,
" The mind is then more free to write;
" For ſolitude delights the muſe,
" Who boldly her own flight purſues,
" When

" When none obſerve her wanton
" pranks,
" Nor interrupt her airy dance."

My Nancy's right----then farewel
home,
I freely quit thy peaceful dome,
To wander o'er theſe verdant plains,
Where jocund mirth and laughter
reigns;
And, as her wood-notes here ſhe ſings,
My chearful muſe, on tow'ring wings
Ranging at large, and unconfin'd,
Shall leave each wayward care be-
hind,
And all her latent charms diſcloſe----
Thus oft from ills advantage flows,

As when, diſtreſs'd by adverſe winds,
The mariner an [37] harbour finds
Amidſt thoſe rocks he ſtrove to ſhun,
Leſt on ſure ruin he ſhould run.

But truly, Nancy, were you here,
I ſcarce know how i ſhould forbear
To ſteal one hour from tender talk,
Amidſt theſe ſylvan ſhades to walk,

[37] This was literally the caſe of the Anna Pink, a victualler belonging to lord Anſon's ſquadron, which, after having with great difficulty weathered the dreadful ſtorms of Cape Horn, was drove towards the ſhore on the coaſt of Chili, in a place where it was ſo very high and ſteep, that there was not the leaſt proſpect of ſaving either ſhip or cargo; and, as their boats were very leaky, the whole crew gave themſelves over for loſt: Under theſe terrifying circumſtances, they drove nearer and nearer to thoſe rocks on which they expected to ſtrike, when all at once their hopes were raiſed by perceiving an opening in the land, which led them through a ſmall channel, betwixt an iſland and the main, into a moſt excellent harbour, that, for the ſmoothneſs of its water, and its ſecurity againſt all winds and ſwells, might be compared with any in the known world.

To meet the ſweet Aonian train,
And thus indulge the ſportive vein:
For muſes here are in ſuch plenty,
That i can number more than twenty,
And, as i wander---all around,
Methinks i tread Parnaſſian ground.

Hill, above hill, here boldly ſoars,
Reſembling Greek, or Latian ſhores,
Or rather ſuch as Judah claims,
And chriſten'd too with ſacred names,
That holy prophets erſt inſpir'd,
And with poetic raptures fir'd;
Take for example only three,
Ephraim, Sion, [38] Calvary,
From whence the healthful waters run,
More pure and ſweet than Helicon,

[38] This is a miſtake, the hill being called Calverley.

That gen'rous love and verſe inſpire,
And rouſe the muſe, and tune the lyre.
Add, what with pomp will ſwell the line,
I daily with [39] Apollo dine;
No wonder then, when i rehearſe
Proſaic matter, ſtarts a verſe.
This my apology for rhyme,
And now, how i have paſs'd my time.

Two hours at leaſt are not miſpent
At pray'rs, as conſtant as in Lent;
The reſt i ſaunter up and down,
And, having paid my entrance crown,
Juſt take a turn in Pinchbeck's room,
Then wait on good [40] Tireſias home,

[39] The celebrated Mr. Handel.
[40] Mr. Handel.

There

There chat o'er Burgundy till ten;
Tomorrow the ſame round agen.
Thus walk and dine, and walk and ſup,
To fill the leiſure moments up;
Idly enough, but to the few
Who've really nothing elſe to do.
Yet here the ſports exulting reign,
And laughing loves, a num'rous train:
Here beauty holds her ſplendid court,
And flutt'ring pleaſures here reſort;
But flutt'ring pleaſures, ſparkling eye,
To me are nothing--you not by;
Yet in this ſcene i bear my part;
For folly oft refines the heart,
And mirthful pleaſures ſurely clear
The ſtudious head, if us'd with care;
Beſides, we muſt as they of Rome,
The proverb ſays, if there we come.

With ſtiffen'd band and ſtately gown,
'Twas quite in character you'll own,
I preach'd on ſunday---not for pelf,
My ſubject uſeful--" Know thyſelf,"
" That mortals hence may learn to ſcan
" The wond'rous dignity of man,
" And know, that actions mean and
" baſe
" Degrade the ſacred human race."
Yet this advice, i'll own, my dear,
Seems not ſo neceſſary here:
The young, with ever-laughing eye,
The old, that oft in ſecret ſigh,
All know themſelves, and know the
place,
Where wantonneſs conceals her face,
And decent orders, decent airs,
Adorn the walks, the rooms, the
pray'rs;

For

For beaux and belles to church come all,
Nothing prevents them, but—a ball:
And moſt polite the congregation,
Tho' boots and diſhabille's the faſhion;
The dreſs ſo neat, the boots ſo clean,
No fop or coxcomb to be ſeen----
"Hold!"----whiſpers ſcandal in my ear,
"Spy you no buck-ſkin parſons here?"
I cannot ſay----but that's no matter,
For Nancy is not fond of ſatyr:
My promiſe was, though i proteſt
That promiſe was but meant in jeſt---
To tell of cuſtoms, manners, things,
And thus the muſe obedient ſings:

With rival ſpeed, and ſtrifeful haſte,
Thy ruins, Tunbridge, ſcarcely paſt,

The

The Touters met us on the road,
And uſher'd us to our abode:
Thus, when you'd croſs the ſilver Thames,
Vocif'rous Charons brawl their claims,
Attend you cloſe, nor ceaſe their roars,
Till you have choſen ſculls or oars.
" Touters!"---- methinks my Nancy cries,
" Your meaning, ſir, i can't deviſe."--
All thoſe, my dear, we Touters call,
Down from phyſicians to the ſtall,
Who are ambitious firſt to meet you,
And humbly for your cuſtom greet you.
Whence comes the word i make ſome doubt,
From [41] Tooting, pour le tout, or t'out;
So

[41] Tooting is a village near Epſom, to which the tradeſmen of that place uſed to go to meet the company,

So learned philologues i leave
The etymology to give,
While i the rude confuſion ſing,
And this wild rout to order bring.

No muſe's aid i durſt convene,
To paint the clam'rous babel ſcene;
For ſure no muſe was ever there,
Where twenty tongues at once declare
Their diff'rent trades, and diff'rent names,
While each your ſole attention claims.
See! as the crouds ſurround the coach,
Rough Tumult in the front approach,
While Scandal ſtrives to catch your ear,
And Impudence ſupports the rear.

company, and ſolicit their cuſtom, as the tradeſmen of Tunbridge-Wells now go to Tunbridge and Sevenoak.

But,

But, while theſe all-together teaſe,
Let us divide their ſev'ral pleas-----

" May't pleaſe your honour t'employ
" My maſter,-----quoth the butcher's boy,
" He, for whate'er you're pleas'd to call,
" Makes it his pleaſure to pleaſe all:
" He ſerves my lord and lady P,
" Will hit your palate to a T,
" And, by the chaplain's beniſon,
" For mutton give you veniſon."

The paſtry-cook with higher plea---
" Me ſerve de royale familie,
" Behold de [42] plume! — dere's none
" can vie
" Vit me for crocaut and hampie;
" Et

[42] The paſtry-cook who attended the place when this was wrote, ſtyled himſelf cook to the prince of Wales, and had the plume over his door.

" Et pour Ort'lan—me tell'ee dat
" Dere's none in town ſo plump and
fat."

To ice, ice-creams, and wines the
beſt,
Each taverner invites his gueſt,
Contending with his rival brother,
(The Gloc'ſter one, the Suſſex t'other)
With as much ſtrife to draw a cork,
As erſt 'twixt Lancaſter and York.

Black night allays this wordy war
Till Phoebus mounts his rapid car,
Then muſic fills the chearful air,
And we to the parades repair,
Where the neat dippers, one and all,
Come ruſhing on us from their hall,

With

With each a ſparkling glaſs in hand,
Like Circe to Ulyſſes' band;
Though not ſo fatal is the glaſs,
To turn you to an hog or aſs,
And if by nature ſuch, 'tis plain,
An hog or aſs you'll ſtill remain,
For M——, who a fool came hither,
Is gone a fool the lord knows whither.

We take the glaſs fair Baker gives,
Whoſe modeſt worth this verſe outlives;
Then thro' the crouded market preſs,
Where Suſſex girls in ruſtic dreſs,
With baſhful grace, diſplay thoſe charms
That nature's faithful vot'ry warms.

Reluc-

Reluctant from this ſcene we go
To glitt'ring poliſh'd art;—but lo!
The walk appears, and, by his gait,
Appears a doctor,—"Sir"—when ſtrait,
Regardleſs of his buſhy wig,
And gold-head cane, in ſteps a prig
Yclep'd une barber-de-Paris,
"Ples your honour employer me,
"Pour vot honoure, et vot ladie."
The doctor now begins to ſwell—
"Sir, I rejoice to ſee you well,
(You may believe him if you pleaſe,
For here they're ſeldom cramm'd with fees)
"Drink you the waters, ſir, they're good
"For circulation of the blood,

"To

" To brace the ſolids that are weak,
" And rubify the pallid cheek ;
" And ſhould you, ſir, want ſomething more,
" Th' apothecary lives next door."

Thus Touting ends, and on we go
To all the num'rous ſhops in row,
Where rattling dice proclaim aloud
The joys of Pleaſure's idle croud ;
Here courting changeful fortune's ſmiles,
Heedleſs of Cupid's artful wiles,
Who here in greater triumph reigns,
Than erſt in Cytherea's plains ;
The urchin lurks in ambuſcade,
And, while the Graces lend their aid,

Both

Both nymphs and ſwains alike he coz'ns,
And wounds their ſoften'd hearts by doz'ns;
Too weak their torments to endure,
To Hymen ſome apply for cure,
While others, by fair Venus led,
Seek am'rous Dido's gloomy bed.

At [43] Baker's the ſubſcribers find
All ſorts of phyſic for the mind;
And ſome there are upon the liſt,
Who, of your taſte, to morning whiſt
Clariſſa, or Sir Charles prefer;
Others admire the conjurer,

[43] The Bookſeller's.

Fond of deceits, and cups and balls,
While [44] King reads lectures to the walls.
The rooms, adorn'd with beauty's shrine,
Like the twin stars, alternate shine;
And raptur'd youths here walk, or play,
Or fondly gaze their hearts away—

A momentary loss—no more,
New charms the dying swain restore:
As, when some many-coloured fly
Catches the virtuoso's eye,
He raptur'd longs to win the prize,
And straining o'er the meadow flies,
Till

[44] The Philosopher.

Till one more beauteous comes in view,
When he begins his chace anew;
Thus lab'ring till the ſetting ſun,
He's charm'd by all, but fix'd to none.

Here too the ball—the pleaſing
ſight
Makes recollection a delight——
Methinks i ſee my Nancy there,
With eaſy bound, and ſwimming air,
To ſolemn melting ſounds advance,

Or briſkly trip the country dance,
When muſic's pow'r triumphant reigns
O'er happy nymphs, and happy
ſwains—

" [45] With antic ſports and blue-ey'd
pleaſures,
" Friſking light in frolic meaſures,
" Now purſuing, now retreating,
" Now in circling troops they meet,
" To brisk notes in cadence beating,
" Glance their many twinkling
feet."

Could i thus touch the magic lyre,
With raptur'd ſtrains that wake deſire,
My muſe this ſubject ſhould purſue,
And raiſe each feſtive ſcene to view;
I'd bid the ſocial breakfaſt riſe,
In all its gayneſs to your eyes,
Where mirth prevails, and beauty
ſhines,
While female wit the ſenſe refines.

Around

[45] Grey's Odes. Vide Dodſley's Collection, Vol. 6. p. 322.

Around the rooms my muſe ſhould name
The parties, and each fav'rite game;
The gameſters ſhew, diſplay their skill
At cribbage, whiſt, or dear quadrille.
Then the ſcene we'd ſudden change,
To rude romantic rocks we'd range,
Where ſylvan Dryads haunt the grove,
And playful Naiads wanton rove;
Or lead you to the green retreats,
The lover's and the muſes ſeats,
Where on each buſh and leafy ſpray
The linnet chants his warbled lay,
Where Philomela's ſoothing ſound
Harmonious echoes all around,
And rural ſhades, and murm'ring ſtreams,
Inſpire the poet's pleaſing dreams.

Thence wand'ring o'er the verdant plains,
Midſt ruſtic nymphs, and ruſtic ſwains,
Thy manſion, [46] Groombridge! we'd ſurvey,
Where Camfield rules with friendly ſway:
And, as we rove from room to room,
Contemplate [47] Orleans' irkſome doom,
Condemn'd in captive bonds to ſtay,
And idly linger life away,
While Waller wields his mighty lance,
And victor Harry conquers France.

Thence,

[46] See the ſubſequent chapter for an account of this, and all the other places mentioned in this poem.

[47] The Duke of Orleans taken at the battle of Azincourt, and twenty-five years a priſoner in this houſe.

Thence, as the curious muſe ſhall lead,
To ſumptuous Mer'worth we'd pro-
ceed,
Where weeping Dryads ceaſeleſs mourn
Great Weſtmoreland, while o'er his
urn
Old Twiſs laments, and gentle Fauns
All plaintive roam the deſert lawns,
Sorrow'ng to ſee in ſure decay,
The mould'ring manſion melt away.
To Bayham's awful ruins next,
The penetrative muſe directs;
Where we'd behold, with glad ſurpriſe,
Amidſt the monkiſh cells ariſe,
A ſpacious dome, our country's grace,
Erected firm on Freedom's baſe,
While Superſtition's ſlaviſh ſway
To Pratt and Liberty gives way.

Or, if true gothic more delight,
To ancient Knowle we'd wing our flight;
Where mighty Dorſet, pride of courts,
Unbends his ſoul in rural ſports;
And where, with injur'd Sackville fled,
Fair Science rears her lovely head.
Or to yon[48] hoſpitable ſeat,
The ſource of all that's good and great;
Where Sidney's ſweet Arcadian ſtrains
Were wont to echo through the plains,
What time great Spenſer's magic lays
Were ſung to fam'd Eliza's praiſe.
There arts and arms have ever ſhone,
And beauty there has fix'd her throne:
Or

[48] Penſhurſt, where Sir Philip Sidney was born, and where the Miſs Sidney's live.

Or at Great Bounds thoſe turrets hail,
Where Juſtice holds her balanc'd ſcale,
Or elſe, as friendſhip points the way,
To Somerhill we'd raptur'd ſtray,
Where nature, undiſguis'd by art,
In native wildneſs charms the heart.

But theſe, and many topics more,
I leave to that long wiſh'd-for hour,
When i, from each engagement free,
Enjoy the calm of home and thee.

CHAP-

Chapter IX.

Of the ancient and present state of the most remarkable places in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge-Wells, comprehending a circuit of about twelve miles round the place.

Ancient and present state of the country.

TO neglect to give some account of the antiquities of those remarkable places in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge-Wells, which attract the notice of the company residing there, would be to leave this work extremely unfinished and incomplete; i have therefore endeavoured to obtain all the information, that can by me be procured on this head, and chearfully submit the result of those enquiries to the public.

In ranging the places, it will be very

very difficult to fall into any regular method, we therefore muſt not pretend to connect one place with the other; but, in perambulating the country round the Wells, ſurvey the houſes, the villages, and the towns, without order as they lie.

Ancient and preſent ſtate of the country.

I.

—Let then our firſt view be of the pariſh in which the ſprings ariſe—

THE pariſh of Speldhurſt, or the learned wood (for ſuch is the original meaning of this word, which was anciently wrote Spelherſt) is a large pariſh in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, which was in former time of conſiderable note, on account of the many eminent families that dwelt therein.

Speldhurſt.

Philipot. Dugd. Bar. Rapin.

The country is very hilly, with deep valleys,

Speld-hurſt.

valleys, and a great number of bare craggy rocks jutting out at different places. It is watered by a principal branch of the river Medway, which has here acquired ſtrength enough to ſupply a conſiderable [49] foundery, and to work ſeveral mills in its courſe. The church is a very ancient ſtructure about three miles from the Wells, dedicated to St. Mary, and the living is valued in the king's books at fifteen pounds five ſhillings. In the chancel of this church there is an ancient monument to the memory of Sir Edmund Waller and his lady with long poetical

[49] There are ſeveral founderies within a few miles of the Wells, where cannon of the largeſt dimenſions have been made; and very great quantities of iron ore have been dug up at abundance of places in this part of the country.—This has tended greatly to enhance the price of wood, on account of the vaſt quantities annually converted into charcoal; but, as pit coal is now brought up Tunbridge river in great plenty, this is not ſo much felt by the inhabitants as it otherways would be.

cal epitaphs, but no date to inform the reader when they died: and on the floor, near the entrance of the chancel, is a grave ſtone with a braſs effigy, and an inſcription in old text characters, to the memory of William Waller, eſq; who died in one thouſand, five hundred, and fifty-five. The pariſhioners are exempted from petty tythes, and they alſo plead the privilege of having no ſoldiers quartered upon them except on a march; but, as the charter is loſt, they are not very ſtrenuous in aſſerting this antiquated claim. Speldhurſt.

Among the places of note in ancient time in this pariſh were Ewhurſt, Ferbies, and Ruſthall, which now are all ſunk into oblivion; as is alſo Hollands, a manſion that was ſo called from an ancient and noble family of that name, who were great benefactors to the pariſh Ewherſt. Ferbies. Ruſthall. Hollands.

Hol-lands

rish church, and came to this estate, and the earldom of the county, by a marriage with Joanna the fair, the daughter of Edmund of Woodstock, earl of Kent, and uncle to Edward the third.

This Joanna of Kent appears to have been a woman of great beauty, and distinguished gallantry; and was that famous lady to whom, it is said, we owe the first institution of the noble order of the garter. In the most early part of her life, she was contracted to sir Thomas Holland*, but while he was engaged abroad in the wars of France, where he performed the most signal services to his king and country, she was prevailed upon to wed the young earl of Salisbury. Soon after this, being at Werk-castle in Northumberland,

* Dugdale's Baronage, vol. 2. p. 74.

land, ſhe ordered her garriſon to interrupt the rear of the king of Scotland's army in his retreat from an irruption which he had made into England, which ſo incenſed him, that he inſtantly turned back again and beſieged her at the head of ſixty thouſand men. The young lady, but little frightened at the number of his forces, ſeveral times bravely repulſed the king when he attempted to ſtorm the caſtle, and kept his whole army at bay, till he, hearing that Edward the third was haſtening to her relief, thought proper to purſue his firſt intention, and return as faſt as poſſible into his own country. This ſeaſonable retreat probably ſaved him and his army from deſtruction, as the magnanimous Edward came to the caſtle, in a few hours after the Scot had quitted it, where finding no enemy to encounter with, he

Hollands.

Hollands. he paid a visit to the countess, and behaved with a gallantry which has given occasion to some historians to assert, that he fell passionately in love with Joanna; but it does not appear that this story, or the many defamatory tales arising from it, have any foundation in fact.

When Sir Thomas Holland returned to England he demanded his wife of the Earl of Salisbury, and, upon the earl's refusing to resign her, presented a petition to the Pope, representing his pre-contract with the lady, and vouching that he had enjoyed her; whereupon the Pope gave sentence in his favour, and she was accordingly divorced from the earl of Salisbury, and married to Sir Thomas Holland; who afterwards built the mansion of which we are now writing, and became earl of

of Kent: but he lived not long to enjoy this new honour. At his death he left one ſon [50], and his counteſs a rich young widow, in which ſtate however ſhe continued but one year, when, notwithſtanding her former miſconduct, this celebrated lady was married to Edward the Black Prince! Hollands.

This manſion, as was before ſaid, has ſhared the fate of many other noble buildings, and is now ſo intirely loſt, that few can point out the ground on which it ſtood: but

GROOMBRIDGE, the place of firſt note in this pariſh, has fared better, Groombridge.

[50] This young nobleman attended his father-in-law, prince Edward, into Spain, and very greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Nejara; where the black prince overthrew Henry the uſurper of Caſtile, and replaced the tyrant Peter on the throne.

Dug. Bar. Vol. 2. p. 75.

Groom-bridge.

and, though deprived of much of its ancient ſplendor, ſtill remains in being. This place was anciently called Gromenbridge, from a noble Saxon, named Gromen, its original proprietor, from whom it paſſed through ſeveral noble families to [51] Henry de Cobham, who, in the twelfth year of Edward the firſt, performed knight's ſervice againſt the Welch, and in reward for his valiant conduct had, two years afterwards, a grant for eſtabliſhing a weekly market and fair of two days in the year, beginning on the vigil of St. John-port-latin, at Groombridge. The market is now intirely loſt, and the fair is kept on that ſaint's day, which is the ſixth of May, and on the twenty-ſixth of November.

From

[51] Henry de Cobham, nephew to this Henry, was appointed governor of Tunbridge-caſtle in the year one thouſand, three hundred, and thirty-two, by Edward the ſecond.

Dugd. Bar. Vol. 2. p. 66.

From the Cobham's this eſtate went to the Clinton's, and it continued in that family till it was purchaſed by Sir Richard Waller, a brave warrior under King Henry the fifth. Sir Richard followed the king into France, and very highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the ever-famous battle of Azincourt, from whence he brought the duke of Orleans priſoner, and was allowed by Henry to keep him in honourable confinement at Groombridge. This prince continued twenty-five years in captivity, * paid at laſt 400,000 crowns for his ranſom, and, from a principle of gratitude for the hoſpitality of his generous keeper, rebuilt the manſion-houſe, and repaired and beautified the pariſh church, which to this day bears his arms over the portal; he alſo aſſigned to Sir Richard, and his heirs for Groombridge.

* Baronetage Edit. 1720. Vol. 2. p. 289.

Groom-bridge.

ever, as a perpetual memorial of his merits, this honourable addition to his family arms, namely, the escutcheon of France suspended upon an oak, with this motto affixed to it,

"Hi Fructus Virtutis."

Groombridge, having continued several generations in the family of Sir Richard Waller, was at length passed away to Thomas Sackville earl of Dorset, and from him to John Packer esquire, Clerk of the privy seal to that unfortunate monarch Charles the first. This gentleman built a chapel of ease to the parish church in his own park, which he dedicated to St. John; and, some time after his decease, the estate became involved in a chancery suit, in which it continued a great many years, till at length it was purchased out of that court by Mr. William Camfield,

its

its preſent proprietor, who has, with indefatigable application, and great expence, retrieved the manſion-houſe, the chapel, and the whole village, from the moſt ruinous condition that can well be conceived, and made it an agreeable, and a thriving place, in which his generous public ſpirit muſt ever be remembered with gratitude and reſpect. [53] Groom-bridge.

ASHURST, or the wood of aſhes, is a little obſcure village about four miles from the Wells, which antiently was celebrated on account of an extra-ordinary rood, or crucifix, which the ſuperſtitious people, in the days of po-pery, were made to believe continued Aſh-hurſt. Lam-barde. Phili-pot.

[53] There was a chauntry founded at Groom-bridge in the thirty-eighth year of Henry the third, by William Ruſſel and Hawis his wife, as appears by the "Reg. Roffenſi."

Philipot, p. 320.

Aſh-hurſt.

growing in the hair and nails, and even in its bodily ſtature, as if it had been alive. This wonderful image was alſo ſuppoſed to work innumerable miracles, and the poor deluded multitude came in ſuch throngs to make their offerings to it, that the wily incumbent, who could hardly ſubſiſt before, ſoon grew fat upon his benefice.

Chafford. Philipot.

Chafford is an ancient manor in the neighbourhood of this village, which formerly belonged to the Roe's and the Rivers's. This place is ſuppoſed to take its name from being a remarkable ford over the Medway, which is here become a tolerable ſtream. There is a very good paper-mill here, which probably may be eſteemed an object of curioſity to thoſe who have never ſeen the manner of making that uſeful commodity.

COWDEN is an obſcure village about three miles farther weſtward, which anciently was appropriated to the college of Lingfield in Surrey, till by the general diſſolution it fell into the hands of King Henry the eighth, who granted it to the earl of Arundel, from whom it paſſed by ſale into private hands. There formerly was one or two good manſions in this pariſh; but at preſent the place is not remarkable for any thing, the church being ſmall and mean, and only worth mentioning on account of its * handſome ſpire. Cowden. Philipot. Harris.

II.

GREAT BOUNDS, ſituated in the pariſh of Bidborough, about three miles north of Tunbridge-Wells, was ſo called, becauſe it was the extreme Great Bounds. Philipot.

* Harris's Hiſtory of Kent.

Great Bounds.

boundary of the lowy or liberty of Tunbridge. This is a very neat gothic building, which anciently had the ſame proprietors as Tunbridge-caſtle, till Thomas lord Berkeley conveyed it away to Sir Thomas Smythe, in the beginning of the reign of king James the firſt, from which time it has continued in that family, and is now poſſeſſed by Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe knight, one of the barons of the exchequer, and great grandſon to the famous lady Dorothy Sidney.

This houſe enjoys one of the richeſt and moſt comprehenſive proſpects, a view of the ſea only excepted, that is perhaps to be met with in the kingdom.

Pens-

54 PENSHURST, or the head of the wood, is a pleaſant little town, about five miles north-weſt of Tunbridge-Wells. This town has the advantage of being watered by the Medway, which is here grown a conſiderable ſtream, that might eaſily be made navigable from Tunbridge town, if the proprietors of that navigation were diſpoſed to put * the act in force, by which they are empowered to carry on and com-

Penſhurſt. Dugd. Bar. Philipot. Collins. Rapin. Guthrie.

54 This name denotes that the place was raiſed in a woody country, and gave occaſion to Waller gallantly to aſcribe to his Sachariſſa the power of inſtantaneouſly reducing the wild luxuriance of nature to regularity and order ——

She —————— "gave
"The peace and glory which theſe alleys have;
"Embroider'd ſo with flowers where ſhe ſtood,
"That it became a garden of a wood ——
"Her preſence has ſuch more than human grace,
"That it can civilize the rudeſt place:
"And beauty too, and order can impart,
"Where nature ne'er intended it, nor art.

* Anno 13. Georgii II.

Penſhurſt. complete the navigation of this uſeful river as far as Foreſt-row in Suſſex. A work which, if it was well executed, would moſt certainly be of the greateſt advantage to the public in general, and to Penſhurſt, and all this part of the country in particular.

Adjoining to the town is Penſhurſt-Place, a noble and very ancient manſion, which, in the time of William the conqueror, was poſſeſſed by a family named Penchester. In this family it continued till about the reign of Edward the ſecond when * Sir Stephen de Penchester, who was one of the barons of the Cinque-Ports, and conſtable of Dover-caſtle, died without male iſſue, upon which it paſſed by Alice, his daughter and co-heireſs, to the lord Columbers; and her ſon Tho-

* Philipot, p. 270.

Thomas de Columbers paſſed it by deed into the Pulteney family; from whence it came to Sir John Devereux, knight of the Garter, lord warden of the Cinque-Ports, conſtable of Dover-caſtle, and ſteward of the houſhold to Richard the ſecond. This gentleman obtained licenſe from the king to fortify and embattle this manſion-houſe, which at his death went with his daughter to Walter lord Fitzwater, and thus paſſed through ſeveral of the moſt noble and eminent families in the kingdom, till at length it was forfeited to the crown by the attainder of Sir Ralph Vane, who, with the Duke of Somerſet and others, was ſacrificed to the vain ambition of the duke of Northumberland, in the fourth year of Edward the ſixth. This eſtate was then given by that amiable young monarch Penſhurſt.

to

Penſhurſt. to *Sir William Sidney; in whoſe diſtinguiſhed family it has ever ſince continued.

Sir William died on the tenth of February, one thouſand, five hundred, and fifty-three, and left this eſtate, of which he had been about ten months in poſſeſſion, to his ſon and heir †Sir Henry Sidney, who from his infancy had been brought up with Edward the ſixth, and on that king's acceſſion to the crown was eſteemed, for his virtues, comelineſs, gallantry, and ſpirit, one of the greateſt ornaments of the court.

‡ Sir Henry had the firſt place in the friendſhip of this virtuous monarch, who made him one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, and took ſuch delight

* Collins's Mem. of the Sidney's, p. 81.
† Ib. p. 82.
‡ Ib. p. 84.

delight in his company, that he but Penſ-
ſeldom granted him leave of abſence, hurſt.
and at laſt died in his arms at Green-
wich. Upon this melancholy occaſion
he retired to Penſhurſt to indulge his
grief, and thus eſcaped all the calami-
ties which befel his father-in-law, the
Duke of Northumberland, on the ac-
ceſſion of queen Mary.

After King Edward's death, Sir Henry Sidney was honourably diſtin-guiſhed by queen Mary; and by queen Eliſabeth he was appointed lord preſident of the marches of Wales. He was alſo four times lord chief-juſ-tice of Ireland, and three times depu-ty governor of that kingdom, at each of which times he performed ſome ſig-nal ſervices to his country, in repreſſing the ſeveral rebellions of the O'Neals, the Butlers, and the Clanrickards; and

he

Penſhurſt. he alſo executed many public works in that iſland, which have deſervedly rendered his name immortal amongſt the iriſh.

He was made a knight of the moſt noble order of the Garter, and received ſome diſtinguiſhing marks of honour from every ſovereign that reigned in England in his time. He made very great additions to his ſeat at Penſhurſt, and * built the tower at the entrance as a monument of gratitude to that generous monarch from whom his father obtained the eſtate; and dying on the 5th of May, one thouſand, five hundred, and eighty-ſix at Ludlow, was brought in great funeral pomp to Penſhurſt, and interred in the chancel of that church †.

Sir

* Vide the Inſcription over the gate.

† Dug. Bar. vol. 2. p. 410. Collins p. 96.

Sir Henry married the duke of Northumberland's eldeſt daughter, by whom he had ſeveral children. At his deceaſe this eſtate deſcended to his eldeſt ſon, the ever-memorable Sir Philip Sidney, who was at that time one of the moſt eminent characters in the kingdom; being univerſally diſtinguiſhed as the pride of his family, the boaſt of his country, and the great hope of his age. Penſhurſt.

Sir Philip was born on the twenty-ninth of November, one thouſand, five hundred, and fifty-four, and named after the king of Spain, who ſtood god-father for him. He being the firſt-born of his father, and the firſt of that family who had received their birth at * Penſhurſt, a tree was planted in the park upon that occaſion which is

* Collins, p. 98.

Penſhurſt. is alluded to by the celebrated Waller in the following manner——

" Go, boy, and carve this paſſion on the bark
" Of yonder tree, which ſtands the ſacred mark
" Of noble Sidney's birth: when ſuch benign,
" Such more than mortal making ſtars did ſhine,
" That there it cannot but for ever prove
" The monument and pledge of humble love."

and Ben Johnſon alſo has alluded to this tree, in his [55] " Foreſt:"

" * Thou haſt thy walks for health as well as ſport?
" Thy mount, to which the Dryads do reſort,
" Where Pan and Bacchus their high feaſts have made,
" Beneath the broad beech and the cheſnut ſhade:

That

[55] From a paſſage in this poem it appears that King James the firſt, and his ſon, probably prince Henry, in one of their hunting-matches paid an unexpected viſit to the earl of Leiceſter at Penſhurſt; from which event Ben Johnſon takes occaſion to compliment lady Leiceſter upon her œconomy and management, in a manner that does honour to her memory.

* B. Johnſon, Vol. 6. p. 306.

" That tall tree too which of a nut was ſet
" At his great birth, where all the [56] Muſes met." Penſhurſt.

* Col-

[56] This charming thought is ſo beautifully and poetically detailed, if i may be allowed that expreſſion, in a little poem called Penſhurſt, that i cannot refrain from tranſcribing it :——

What genius points to yonder oak ?
What rapture does my ſoul provoke ?
Here let me hang a garland high,
There let my muſe her accents try ;
Be there my earlieſt homage paid,
Be there my lateſt vigils made :
For thou waſt planted in the earth
The day that ſhone on Sidney's birth.
That happy time, that glorious day,
The Muſes came in concert gay ;
With harps in tune, and ready ſong,
The jolly Chorus tript along ;
In honour of th' auſpicious morn,
To hail the infant genius born :
Next came the Fauns in order meet,
The Satyrs next with cloven feet,
The Dryads ſwift that roam the woods,
The Naiads green that ſwim the floods ;
Sylvanus left his ſilent cave,
Medway came dropping from the wave ;
Vertumnus led his bluſhing ſpouſe,
And Ceres ſhook her wheaten brows,
And Mars with milder look was there,
And laughing Venus grac'd the rear.
They join'd their hands in feſtive dance,
And bade the ſmiling babe advance ;

Penſhurſt. * Collins informs his readers that this tree was remaining in the park in his time, and called Bear's-Oak; but it does not appear that there is now any well aſcertained tradition in the family relating to it, ſo periſhing are temporary memorials, while his own immortal deeds ſhall tranſmit his name with applauſe down to the lateſt poſterity.

Sir Philip's noble and generous diſpoſition, his love of the arts, † the encourage-

Each gave a gift; Sylvanus laſt
Ordain'd when all the pomp was paſt,
Memorial meet, a tree to grow
Which might to future ages ſhow,
That, on ſelect occaſion rare,
A troop of Gods aſſembled there:
The Naiads water'd all the ground,
And Flora twin'd a wood-bine round:
The tree ſprung faſt in hallow'd earth
Co-æval with th' illuſtrious birth.
Penſhurſt a Poem by Mr. F. Coventry

* Collins, p. 98.
† Guthrie, Vol. 3. p. 580.

couragement that he gave to men of learning and genius, and the eſteem in which he was univerſally held throughout all the courts of Europe, are ſo generally known that it muſt be wholly unneceſſary to mention them here; but the laſt action of his life ſo ſtrongly paints the native and unconquerable goodneſs of his heart, that it would be doing myſelf the utmoſt violence to forbear relating it. * He was engaged in the battle of Zutphen which was very ſtoutly fought, the engliſh ſeveral times forcing the entrenchments of the enemy, though at laſt their general, the earl of Leiceſter, thought proper to leave the Spaniards in poſſeſſion of the field; and on this occaſion Sir Philip performed ſuch feats of valour, as gives credibility to the moſt ſhining actions of the braveſt

Penſhurſt.

* Collins, p. 105-108.

Penſhurſt.

hero in his [57] Arcadia. He was from the firſt diſtinguiſhed in the thickeſt of the battle, and continued to fight with unremitting ardour, till, being mortally wounded in the thigh, he was obliged to be carried from the field. The loſs of blood, and exceſs of pain, made him thirſty, and drink was preſently brought to him; but, as he was lifting up the bottle to his head, he ſaw a wounded ſoldier caſt his wiſhful eyes towards it, upon which, pulling it untaſted from his mouth, he gave it to the poor fellow with theſe words—"thy neceſſity is yet greater than "mine."

In

[57] It is ſuppoſed that Sir Philip amuſed himſelf in writing this celebrated romance during his receſs from public buſineſs, in the twenty-ſixth year of his age, when he retired from court on account of queen Eliſabeth's partiality in favour of the Earl of Oxford, with whom he had a diſpute in which the queen interfered.

In this happy disposition of mind, this unshaken fortitude of soul, he continued the following sixteen days, and then, in the thirty-fifth year of his age, after living the life of a soldier, he died the death of a christian; thus was lost to the world a hero whom his contemporaries could never mention without admiration, and whose memory will ever be revered while the love of arts and arms shall remain amongst men. Penshurst.

By Sir Philip's death this estate descended to his brother, Sir Robert Sidney, who was created lord Sidney of Penshurst in the first year of James the first, and soon after obtained the title of Viscount L'isle, which title had been in his mother's family from the time of king John. In the fourteenth of James's

Penſhurſt.

reign Lord L'iſle was inveſted with the order of the Garter, and in the ſixteenth dignified with the title of earl of Leiceſter †.

* In one thouſand, ſix hundred, and forty-nine two of king Charles's children, the duke of Gloceſter, and the princeſs Eliſabeth, were ſent by the Parliament to Penſhurſt-houſe to be placed under the care of the counteſs of Leiceſter, and they continued here about one year. There are yet remaining in the houſe two pictures of the Duke of Gloceſter, one of them with a black behind him in the royal livery.

Penſhurſt is alſo remarkable for being the habitation of the celebrated lady

† Collins.
* ibid p. 132.

lady Dorothy Sidney, whom Waller has immortalized under the name of Sachariſſa. It is not certain that this beautiful lady was born in this manſion, as her name is not inſerted in the pariſh regiſter: but it is unqueſtionable that ſhe here, in the full bloom and luſtre of her charms, received the incenſe of her adorers, and amongſt the reſt inflamed the heart of this ſweet and elegant poet, who is juſtly diſtinguiſhed as the father of engliſh verſification; but who, though ſucceſsful in poetry, was ſo unfortunate in love, as to be obliged to yield up the object of his adorations to * Henry lord Spencer, afterwards earl of Sunderland, and great-grand-father to the late duke of Marlborough. Lady Dorothy continued ſome time a widow after lord Sunderland's deceaſe, Penſhurſt.

* Collins, 147.

Penſhurſt. and then was married to Robert Smythe eſq; of Bounds in Kent, from whom the preſent Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe is lineally deſcended.

Penſhurſt was alſo the birth-place of that great patriot Algernon Sidney, whoſe name will ever be dear to his country, and whoſe memory will be cheriſhed by all the true lovers of liberty. An account of his life, his character, and his tragical end, has been ſo lately preſented to the public, together with his works, that it is intirely needleſs for it to be mentioned here, though when ſuch noble ſubjects come before us it is with reluctance that we paſs them by.

Thus has Penſhurſt for a great number of years ſucceſſively been the manſion of hero's, patriots, arts, arms, and

and beauty—few houſes in this king- Penſ-
dom ſhine with ſuch diſtinguiſhed hurſt.
luſtre, and none can have title to a ſuperior place in the annals of fame.

This fine old manſion has, within theſe few years, been repaired and greatly beautified, by the late William Perry eſquire, who came to this eſtate by marrying the honourable [58] Elizabeth Sidney, niece to the laſt earl of Leiceſter, and at preſent ſole ſurvivor of that ancient and moſt illuſtrious family, which is * lineally deſcended from Sir William Sidney, who came out of Anjou with Henry the ſecond.

This

[58] This lady has a ſon and ſeveral daughters by the late Mr. Perry, who all bear the name of Sidney. She is a co-heireſs of colonel Thomas Sidney, and her ſiſter, the honourable Mary Sidney, was married to Sir Brownlow Sherrard; but died a few years ſince without iſſue.

* Dugd. Bar. Vol. 2. 410.

Penſhurſt.

This houſe contains a noble collection of pictures, and many other curious works of art, ſeveral of which were collected by Mr. Perry in his travels through Europe: and the ſtate-rooms here are moſt ſuperbly furniſhed.

The gardens reach from the houſe to the banks of the Medway, and are large and beautiful. The park is ſaid to be one of the fineſt in the kingdom. It certainly is of great extent, and charmingly diverſified: hills, dales, marſhes, rivers, woods, lawns, and all that can delight a contemplative mind, all that can fire a romantic imagination, is here to be found —

" Here mighty [59] Dudley once would rove,
" To plan his triumphs in the grove:
" There

[59] Dudley earl of Leiceſter, queen Eliſabeth's favourite, and uncle by the mother's ſide to Sir Philip Sidney.

" There looſer Waller, ever gay,
" With Sachariſs in dalliance lay ;
" And Philip, ſidelong yonder ſpring,
" His laviſh carols wont to ſing."

PENSHURST a POEM.

Penſ-hurſt.

The pariſh church of Penſhurſt is a good ſubſtantial ſtructure, and in it there are ſeveral antique, elegant, and noble monuments, of the proprietors of Penſhurſt-place, and particularly of the Sidney's; moſt of whom, for above theſe two hundred years paſt, have been buried there.

CHIDDINGSTONE, ſituated about two miles from Penſhurſt, is a ſmall neat town in, and ſurrounding which, are ſeveral ancient manors, that formerly belonged to the noble families of Cobham, Willoughby, and others, but theſe are now generally centered in the Streatfields ; the elder branch of which

Chid-ding-ſtone.

Phili-pot. Harris.

Chidding-ſtone.

which has long reſided there. The [60] church is a very fair large ſtructure, and the tower of it is ſaid to be as good a piece of work as almoſt any of the kind in Kent. Within this church there are ſeveral memorials of ancient families that may perhaps be uſeful to our genealogiſts, but are of little importance to others.

Hever.

Philipot. Harris. Rapin.

HEVER is ſituated a mile farther weſtward. This was anciently part of the extenſive patrimony of Sir Stephen de Penchester; but the caſtle, whoſe ruins are ſtill remaining, was built and embattled, in the time of Edward the third, by Thomas de Hever; whoſe deſcendent, William de Hever, dying without male iſſue, it paſſed to his

[60] This church was appropriated by Walter, the grandſon of Richard de Clare, to the monks of Daventre in Northamptonſhire.

Dugdale's Baron. Vol. 1. p. 218.

his two daughters and co-heireſſes, one of whom being married to Cobham and the other to Brocas, this eſtate ſeems to have continued between them, till it was purchaſed by Geoffrey Bullen. This gentleman's grandſon the famous Sir Thomas Bullen, knight of the garter, and father of the celebrated and unfortunate queen Anna Bullen, conſtantly reſided here, and lies buried in Hever church, under a large and fair altar tomb, with his effigy in braſs, dreſſed in his robes and garter, and with a fair inſcription. Queen Anne herſelf reſided here ſome time after king Henry began his courtſhip to her, and there are ſaid to be ſome letters ſtill extant which this paſſionate monarch wrote to her while ſhe lived in this place. On the execution of her brother the unfortunate lord Rochford, who, with his ſiſter, fell a ſacri-

Hever.

fice

Hever. fice to the cruel jealouſy and wavering paſſions of the tyrannical Harry, this caſtle was forfeited to the king, and by him given to Anne of Cleves, who reſided here ſome time after her repudiation. Upon her death it reverted again to the crown, and was given, by Mary the firſt, to Sir Edward Waldegrave, in whoſe noble family it has ever ſince continued.

Eden-bridge. Philipot. Harris. EDENBRIDGE is a ſmall town about two miles from Hever, and ſo called from being ſituated on the river Eden which loſes itſelf in the Medway at Penſhurſt. The church is a large handſome building, once famous for a crucifix of excellent workmanſhip which ſtood there. The roodloft, or gallery, in which this image was placed, is ſtill remaining; there is alſo ſome remains of good painted glaſs in

the windows; and a few fair monuments of the Selyard family. Eden-bridge.

III.

TUNBRIDGE, or the Town-of-Bridges, is ſuppoſed to derive its name from five ſtone bridges, which are here built over ſo many ſmall ſtreams of the river Medway, for the convenience of trade. Tun-bridge. Phili-pot. Harris. Lam-barde. Dug. Bar. Monaſ-ticon. Dugd. Warw. Rapin. Guth-rie. Wea-ver. Stowe. Selden.

This town is a ſmall territory by itſelf, called "the lowy of the diſtrict of Tunbridge," which, according to the beſt accounts of the britiſh antiquarians, was anciently part of the extenſive patrimony of the ſee of Canterbury, but became diſmembered therefrom through the avarice of Odo biſhop of Bayeux, and uterine brother to the conqueror, who in the life-time

of

Tun-bridge.

of archbiſhop Stigand, and eſpecially in the long vacancy that happened after his depoſition, rapaciouſly ſeized a great part of the eſtates and lordſhips belonging to this ſee, which he thought to have engroſſed for himſelf and his family for ever; but when Lanfranc, who was a man of ſpirit and reſolution, was advanced to the archbiſhoprick, he ſent over a complaint againſt the encroachments of Odo to the king in Normandy: and William, well knowing the impetuous and avaricious diſpoſition of his brother, favourably heard the complaint, and immediately ordered it to be tried in the moſt ſolemn manner. Accordingly commiſſioners were appointed, and a jury of the moſt reputable perſons in the [61] ſeveral

[61] About two thirds were Kentiſh eſtates, the reſt were in Surrey, London, Middleſex, Eſſex, Suffolk, Oxfordſhire, and Buckinghamſhire. Guthrie.

veral counties where the archbiſhop had any poſſeſſions was ſummoned to meet near Aylesford in Kent, to hear and decide this important cauſe between two of the greateſt ſubjects in the kingdom. Tunbridge.

When the trial came on, Lanfranc, being an eloquent man for the age in which he lived, pleaded his own cauſe, and obtained a complete victory over his antagoniſt who was obliged to reſtore twenty-three manors to the archiepiſcopal ſee, amongſt which, this of Tunbridge was one; but, as Odo had given this eſtate to his kinſman Richard de Clare, this young nobleman liked the country ſo well, that he was unwilling to reſign it to the archbiſhop, and therefore, through the king's mediation, entered into an agreement with

Tun-bridge.

Lanfranc to * exchange his caſtle and country of [62] Brionne in Normandy for this territory.

At this exchange of eſtates in order to aſcertain the exact extent of territory beyond all poſſibility of diſpute, the caſtle of Brionne was meaſured about with a ſtring, agreeable to the ſimplicity of that age, and an equal quantity of land, including the town of Tunbridge, was meaſured with the ſame line, and given up to the earl of Clare; whoſe ſucceſſors held this eſtate of the ſee of Canterbury by knight's ſervice, till, at the inſtigation of Henry the ſecond, this tenure was diſputed with that haughty prelate

* Dug. Bar. Vol. 1. p. 207.

[62] Brionne is a town of Normandy in France, which gives title to a count, and is ſituated on the river Rille. Lat. 49. 35. Lon. 18. 26. Buſching's Geography.

prelate Thomas a Becket, and thus it continued many years in ſuit, till at length, in the reign of Henry the third, a compoſition was agreed between the archiepiſcopal ſee and the earls Clare (now become earls of Gloceſter) who ever after held this eſtate of the ſee of Canterbury, upon condition that they ſhould be chief butlers and high ſtewards at the inſtallment of the archbiſhops, and grant them the wardſhip of their children. Tunbridge.

The before-mentioned Richard de Clare built the caſtle, and fenced it with the river, a deep ditch, and ſtrong walls, which, though they are now by time and neglect reduced to a moſt ruinous condition, and become the habitation of bats and owls, yet plainly enough ſhew what they have been. He alſo built the church,

Tunbridge.

which he dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and appropriated to the knights [64] Hoſpitallers of St. John of Jeruſalem,

[63] Harris in his hiſtory of Kent, p. 319, ſuppoſes, in contradiction to Philipot, that this church was not appropriated to the knights of St. John but to the Templars, "becauſe, ſays he, "the Hoſpitallers did not come into play till af-"ter the Templars were deſtroyed;" which is as bad a reaſon as could well be aſſigned, becauſe in fact the Hoſpitallers were not only formed into a religious ſociety, but eſtabliſhed in England, and of conſiderable eminence throughout Europe, many years before the Templars were thought of.

* The origin of the Hoſpitallers, or knights of St. John, is generally attributed to John Hircanus Maccabeus patriarch of Alexandria, but, if this order was not quite ſo ancient, it at leaſt is certain that they were eſtabliſhed in the hoſpital of St. John the Baptiſt at Jeruſalem by Gerard of Paleſtine ſo early as in the year one thouſand and ninety-two, ſoon after which they began to appear in England, and in one thouſand one hundred, their priory of St. John of Jeruſalem was erected at Clerkenwell, and they had vaſt poſſeſſions, and were held in great eſteem throughout the kingdom: ſo that although they did not ſhine with ſo great ſplendor before the deſtruction of the Templars

* Dugdale's Warwickſhire, p. 704. 706. 708. Stowe's Survey of London, p. 438. 439. 483.

Jeruſalem, agreeable to the [64] reigning Tunbridge.
O 3 ſuperſti-

Templars as they did afterwards, when the prodigious eſtates of the latter were ſettled upon them, yet they moſt undoubtedly were prior in point of time, for the Templars were not inſtituted till the year one thouſand, one hundred, and eighteen, and, as their beginning was very low, it muſt be ſeveral years later before they made their firſt appearance in this country, and it is certain the Temple in Fleetſtreet, which was their principal convent in Europe, was not built for them till one thouſand, one hundred, and eighty-five.

From hence it appears moſt probable that Philipot is right; and this argument receives additional force from other circumſtances which ſeem almoſt equal to a demonſtration, for as Gilbert was put in poſſeſſion of Tunbridge in one thouſand and ninety-three, when earl Richard was a priſoner in Normandy, it is not at all likely that it ſhould be in the power of the latter to appropriate the church after that period, and therefore it could not by him be given to the Templars who were not inſtituted till twenty-five years afterwards.

[64] It was in this age ſo much the faſhion to appropriate churches and tythes to the Hoſpitallers and Templars of Jeruſalem that it was thought neceſſary by the Lateran Council to put the laity under ſome reſtraint: and for this purpoſe a decree was iſſued forth in 1180 to prohibit theſe and all

Tun-bridge.

ſuperſtition of that age, in which the bloody croiſades began.

This nobleman was one of the principal perſons who came into England with the conqueror, and, in conſequence of the brave aſſiſtance which he gave to William at the ever memorable battle of Haſtings, as well as in reſpect of his near alliance in blood (he being grandſon to Geoffrey, who was a natural ſon to Richard the firſt duke of Normandy) had great advancements in honour, and very large poſſeſſions both in England and Normandy beſtowed upon him: thoſe in England only amounting to one hundred and ſeventy-ſix lordſhips, beſides thirteen burgages in Ipſwich, of which Clare,

all other religious ſocieties from receiving the churches and tenths from the laity without the conſent of the biſhop.

Selden on Tythes p. 142.

Clare, from whence his title was de- Tun-
rived, was one. bridge.

In one thouſand and ſeventy-three, he was joined with William de Warren in the important poſt of * juſticiary of England during the king's abſence, and was at that time a principal inſtrument in ſuppreſſing the dangerous rebellion of the earls of Hereford and Norfolk, two norman lords, who entered into a conſpiracy to deprive William of his royalty and obtain the government for themſelves. Theſe potent noblemen had ſuch reſources at their command, that had they been allowed time to put their ſchemes into execution, and to join their forces, they would in all probability have torn the crown from the conqueror's brow; it was therefore happy for Wil-

* Dug. Bar. Vol. 1. p. 206.

Tunbridge. liam that he left his government in the hands of ſubjects who were equally faithful, vigilant, and intrepid.

On the death of the conqueror, this earl [65] Richard favoured the pretenſions of Robert and held out ſome time againſt William Rufus; but, on William's appearing with his army before the [66] caſtle of Tunbridge, he preſently

[65] Philipot calls him Gilbert, and ſays "he "was put in as governor of the caſtle by Odo," in which he was much miſtaken, as will appear from comparing him with * Dugdale. This indeed is not the only place in which i am obliged to differ from that laborious writer; but the reader may be aſſured, whenever this happens to be the caſe, it is with the greateſt reluctance, and not till after I have taken the utmoſt pains to obtain the beſt information.

[66] Guthrie ſays, † "that William, leaving Ro- "cheſter, marched to Tunbridge, another fort be- "longing to Odo, and ſummoned it to ſurrender. "The garriſon refuſing to obey the ſummons, "the engliſh ſuddenly aſſaulted it. As it was "well

* Dug. Bar. Vol. 1. p. 207.
† Guthrie, Vol. 1. p. 400.

preſently made his ſubmiſſions, and ſwore fealty to the reigning monarch, to whom he ever after adhered with the ſtricteſt fidelity. Rufus immediately after earl Richard's ſubmiſſion purſued the arch-rebel Odo to Pevenſey, and, having taken him priſoner, * confined him for a ſhort ſpace at Tunbridge-caſtle; till finding him neceſſary to the reduction of Rocheſter he ſent for him to his army, from whence

Tunbridge.

" well fortified for that time, it for ſome time " made a vigorous defence; but at laſt ſurren- " dered upon terms, and the place was demoliſhed " by William's order who could not ſpare men " enough to keep it."—In this account, as the hiſtorian is certainly miſtaken in ſaying the caſtle belonged to Odo, ſo i apprehend he is in ſaying, " William demoliſhed it," as that ſeems inconſiſtent with the conduct of Richard de Clare, who immediately on the ſurrender of his caſtle ſwore fealty to Rufus, and therefore it could not be ſo neceſſary to deſtroy his caſtle, as it was to leave it in a ſtate of defence: beſides, if it was deſtroyed, how could Odo ſo ſoon after be confined there?

* Philipot, p. 344.

Tun-bridge.

whence Odo made his eſcape into the town, which being ſoon after reduced, he was again taken, and then ſuffered to go quietly over into France according to the articles of capitulation.

Earl Richard followed Rufus into Normandy in the year one thouſand and ninety-three, and, being there taken priſoner by Robert's forces, was kept in confinement till that dukedom was aſſigned over to William, on Robert's going into the holy-land; but on this event he obtained his liberty, and, returning to England again, lived ſome years a peaceable life, till at length turning his arms againſt the Welch, in the beginning of Stephen's reign, he was ſlain in his old-age at the battle of Abergavenny.

The caſtle of Tunbridge was poſ-

ſeſſed by Gilbert, the ſon of the afore- Tun-
ſaid earl Richard, in his father's * life- bridge.
time, it probably being conſigned over to him on account of Richard's captivity in Normandy. This Gilbert in the eighth of William Rufus was confederate with Mowbray earl of Northumberland, but [67] relented when he ſaw

* Dug. Bar. Vol. 1. p. 207.

" [67] Rufus, marching to the north with his " army to ſuppreſs Mowbray earl of Northum- " berland, took Newcaſtle, after about two " months ſiege; and from thence puſhed for- " ward to Bamborough caſtle, where he was in- " formed the earl himſelf was ſhut up; but, in " this march, he very narrowly eſcaped being cut " off with all his army. For Mowbray had ta- " ken his meaſures ſo well, as to place a ſtrong " body of troops in a defile, through which the " king muſt paſs, and where he could have made " little or no reſiſtance; but Gilbert de Tun- " bridge, one of the principal conſpirators, who " had been intruſted by Mowbray with the ſecret " of this ambuſcade, touched by the remem- " brance of former favours, [a] found means to ap-

[a] Gilbert was in the king's army, not having openly joined Mowbray.

Dugdale's Baron. Vol. 1. p. 207.

Tun-bridge.

saw the king upon the point of falling into an ambuscade of the enemy, and preserved his life by revealing the danger. After this, in the second year of Henry the first, he more openly rebelled against the king, and taking part with the Earl of Shrewsbury fortified Tunbridge, notwithstanding which it was soon taken from him by the king's forces; but in consideration of his father's important services to the crown, and his own affinity to the family, Henry immediately restored this estate to [68] Gilbert, and he, dying in about ten years afterwards, left it to his son [69] Richard,

" prize William of his danger, and thereby sa-
" ved both the king and his army."
Guthrie, Vol. 1. p. 207.

[68] This Gilbert gave twenty shillings per annum out of the toll of Tunbridge-castle to the cluniac monks of Lewes in Suffex.

[69] This earl of Hartford gave a free and perpetual alms of twenty-five hogs yearly, out of his foreft

chard, the firſt earl of Hartford; who, amongſt his other works of ſuperſtitious piety, * about the year one thouſand, two hundred, and forty-one, founded a priory near his caſtle at Tunbridge for the black canons of St. Auſtin, and dedicated it to St. Mary Magdalen. Tunbridge.

In the year one thouſand, three hundred, and fifty-three, all the buildings of this monaſtery were conſumed by fire, to balance which diſaſter, the church of Leigh was appropriated to it, by which aſſiſtance it very ſoon recovered its ancient bulk and ſplendor; but now there is hardly any veſtige remaining of this priory, except the great hall, which is converted into a barn by the preſent

foreſt of Tunbridge, to the Præmonſtratenſian canons of Begham.

Monaſt. Anglic. T. 2. p. 640.

* Weaver's Fun. Mon. p. 322.

Tun-bridge.

preſent proprietor. Its revenue in ſpiritualities and temporalities amounted, in the whole, to one hundred ſixty-nine pounds, ten ſhillings, and three-pence per annum, and it was diſſolved by Cardinal Wolſey about the year one thouſand, five hundred, and twenty-ſeven, being included amongſt the monaſteries that were granted to that prelate, by Henry the eighth, for the endowment of his two colleges at Ipſwich and Oxford.

It is ſaid, there was a ſubterraneous paſſage, carried under the bed of the river, from this priory to the caſtle, in order to ſupply the garriſon with neceſſaries in times of diſtreſs; but i can find no warrant for this report, except in the uncertain voice of tradition.

This Richard de Tunbridge was uncle

uncle to the famous Richard, ſirnamed Strongbow, who, in the reign of Henry the ſecond, was a principal inſtrument in the conqueſt of Ireland, which happened in the following manner. Tunbridge.

Dermot, the tyrant of Leinſter, being driven from his throne, came into England to aſk the aſſiſtance of Henry to reinſtate him thereon; and having obtained letters patent from the king, whereby he gave his ſubjects liberty to aſſiſt the iriſh prince, Dermot immediately applied to Strongbow, who was a very eminent warrior at that time, and, having greatly impaired his eſtate by expenſive pleaſures, was ready for any deſperate undertaking whatever. He therefore readily promiſed, upon condition of marrying the iriſh king's daughter, and being declared heir to all his dominions, to eſpouſe his

Tun-bridge.

his quarrel. Dermot, ſatisfied with this promiſe, left Richard to aſſemble his forces, and went himſelf, with ſome other needy adventurers whom he had engaged in his ſervice, into his own dominions, where, with this ſmall aid, he obtained ſuch advantages over his enemies, as raiſed his expectations extremely high, and made him very earneſt in ſolliciting the promiſed aſſiſtance of Richard to complete his ambitious deſigns, aiming at nothing ſhort of the ſole government of Ireland.

Richard, on his part, did not make any unneceſſary delays; but, previous to his leaving England, endeavoured, for his own ſecurity, to obtain a more expreſs licenſe from Henry than the general liberty before mentioned; in which however he was not very ſucceſsful, as that cautious monarch only thought

thought proper not to hinder him. Strongbow, finding he could do no good with the king, who was then in Normandy, haſted back to his eſtate, ſhipped his forces, and immediately entered upon the invaſion of Ireland, where he preſently took Waterford and Dublin, and behaved himſelf ſo valiantly that nothing in that kingdom durſt oppoſe him, upon which he married the iriſh king's daughter, and, Dermot dying ſoon after, Richard took poſſeſſion of the kingdom of Leinſter, and was by the iriſh ſirnamed "Ningal," that is, "the ſtranger's "friend." Tunbridge.

But Henry, hearing of theſe extraordinary ſucceſſes, grew jealous of his progreſs, and, in order to put a ſtop to it, iſſued out a proclamation for all his ſubjects to return home, ſoon after

Tunbridge. which, upon pretence of diſobedience, he ſequeſtered all the eſtates of earl Richard in England and Normandy, and prohibited the exportation of proviſions and ſtores to Ireland. All this was very inconſiſtent with the views of Strongbow, as it not only prevented the full completion of his projects, but even endangered his ſafety, whereupon he immediately made ſubmiſſions to the king, and found means to appeaſe his anger and cure his jealouſy, by offering to hold the cities of Dublin and Waterford, together with all his other acquiſitions, in vaſſalage to the crown of England.

This perfectly ſatisfied Henry, who thereupon reſtored all his eſtates to earl Richard, and went into the kingdom of Ireland in perſon at the head of his army to receive the homage of his

new ſubjects: and, after appointing Richard * chief juſtice of the kingdom, ſettling ſome lands upon the engliſh adventurers, and other acts of government, returned in triumph to his old dominions. Tunbridge.

Theſe are the exploits which laid the foundation of the intire reduction of Ireland, though a great many years intervened, and whole rivers of blood were ſhed, before this jewel was completely annexed to the britiſh diadem.

But to return from this excurſion. The caſtle of Tunbridge paſſed from the before-mentioned Richard earl of Hartford to two of his ſons [70] Gilbert

* Dugdale's Baronage Vol. 1. p. 208. 210.

[70] Gilbert gave the church of Tunbridge to the Cluniac monks of Lewes; and, probably by way of recompenſe, appropriated Standowne church to to the Hoſpitallers.

Dug. Bar. vol. 1. p. 210.

Tun-bridge.

and [71] Roger in ſucceſſion; and from Roger to his ſon Richard, at whoſe death it devolved to Gilbert the firſt earl of Gloceſter of this family, and one of the noble champions for liberty againſt king John.

In this civil war the caſtle of Tunbridge was taken from Gilbert, by Fowkes de Brent, a mercenary commander in the king's army, and the earl himſelf was afterwards taken priſoner at the battle of Lincoln, by his father-in-law the earl of Pembroke; but recovered his liberty, and had all his eſtates reſtored to him again, at the eſtabliſhment

[71] Roger gave a Buck annually out of his foreſt at Tunbridge to the monks of St. Auguſtine at Canterbury. It was this Roger that begun the diſpute with the archbiſhops, by refuſing to do homage in one thouſand, one hundred, and fifty-one to Thomas à Becket for the caſtle and territory of Tunbridge.

Dug. Bar. vol. 1. p. 210.

eſtabliſhment of peace between king Henry the third and prince Lewis of France. Tun-bridge.

Upon the death of this Gilbert, Henry ſeized the wardſhip of the young earl, and, during his minority, committed the care of Tunbridge-caſtle to his favourite Hugh de Burgh. The archbiſhop of Canterbury upon this haſted to court, and, alledging that Gilbert had died in his homage, demanded the cuſtody of Tunbridge as belonging to the archiepiſcopal ſee; but Henry, inſiſting upon his prerogative to diſpoſe of earls and barons during their minority, ſupported his miniſter. Upon this, the archbiſhop thundered out the anathema's of the church againſt all that had entered upon the eſtate, and all, the king alone excepted, who ſhould converſe with

Tun-bridge.

them; then haſted away to Rome, to ſeek that redreſs which was denied him here. The pope, after pretending to hear the cauſe, gave judgment againſt the king; and the exulting prelate was returning in triumph to take poſſeſsion of this ſubject of fierce contention, when death ſtopped him in the way: this event occaſioned the caſtle's continuing as the king had diſpoſed of it till the minor, earl Richard the fourth, arrived to years of maturity; when this quarrel with the archbiſhops was adjuſted to the intire ſatisfaction of all parties, after it had ſubſiſted exactly an hundred years.

Henry the third granted this earl Richard a licence to wall and embattle the town of Tunbridge in a manner the moſt uſeful both to annoy an enemy and to ſhield the defendants; but

but it does not appear that this work was ever carried into execution, and it is probable that it was prevented by the civil war which broke out very soon after this licence was granted. Tunbridge.

* Richard dying on the fourteenth of July, one thousand, two hundred, and sixty-two, Tunbridge descended to Gilbert the red †, who immediately repaired to Henry the third at Guienne to obtain the investiture of his father's inheritance, a piece of justice which the king, who was jealous of this young lord's designs, reluctantly granted after receiving a considerable present.

Gilbert however soon amply revenged himself upon the king, for immediately

* Weaver.
† Rapin, Vol. 1. p. 336.

Tun-bridge.

mediately on his return to England, in conformity to his father's laſt injunctions, he joined Leiceſter in open rebellion againſt Henry. In conſequence of which the king, a little before the battle of Lewes, having burnt the city of Rocheſter, turned his arms againſt this caſtle and took it by ſurprize. Henry here found the counteſs of Gloceſter, and ſeveral other eminent perſons, whom he thought proper inſtantly to reſtore to their liberty again; but ſtrongly garriſoned the caſtle, which he kept till after his defeat at Lewes, when himſelf, his ſon, and his brother, were taken priſoners.

The earl of Gloceſter had a principal command in the rebel army at this famous battle, where he took the king's brother, the king of the Romans, with his own hand, but afterwards

wards becoming ſuſpicious of the earl of Leiceſter's intentions (this earl having placed himſelf at the head of government, and apparently deſigning to keep there) he became reconciled to the king, procured the eſcape of the prince, and, having obtained from young Edward the moſt ſolemn aſſurances of his intention in future to govern according to the laws, was a chief inſtrument in reſtoring his father to the throne. Tunbridge.

Gilbert after this had ſome little quarrels with the king, but in the end became a faithful ſubject to Henry, and, having contracted the ſincereſt friendſhip for prince Edward, never departed from his loyalty; but was one of the firſt to proclaim Edward the firſt on the death of his father, and moſt nobly entertained him with his whole

Tunbridge. whole retinue, for ſeveral days together, at Tunbridge-caſtle on his return from the holy land to take poſſeſſion of the throne of his anceſtors.

This earl, being divorced from his firſt wife, became ambitious of marrying the king's daughter Joan of Acre, and, to induce his majeſty to grant this requeſt, gave up his caſtle of Tunbridge and all his other very large poſſeſſions into the king's hands, whereupon he was married to the princeſs, and Edward reſtored back all his eſtates, ſettled upon her and the iſſue of her body for ever.

Gilbert lived with this princeſs about ſix years, and, dying in one thouſand, two hundred, and ninety-five, left her a widow with one ſon and three daughters. The princeſs however did not

not remain long in a ſtate of widow- Tun-
hood, but falling deſperately in love bridge.
with a plain country ſquire, called
Ralph de Monthermer, or Mortimer,
ſhe clandeſtinely matched herſelf to
him, and ſoon after ſent him from
Tunbridge to the king to receive
knighthood. But Edward diſcover-
ing the marriage was highly incenſed,
and not only ſent Monthermer into
cloſe confinement at Briſtol, but ſeiz-
ed on all the princeſs's eſtates, and de-
clared that he would never pardon
this meanneſs in his daughter. How-
ever, through the mediation of the
biſhop of Durham, the king was
brought to ſee and forgive the prin-
ceſs; and, at length, not only to per-
mit her huſband to live with her, but
in a ſhort time to approve of the
match

Tun-bridge. match, and even to love him as his own ſon [72].

This princeſs died in one thouſand, three hundred, and ſeven, and her ſon by the earl of Gloceſter was ſlain in the twenty-fourth year of his age at the battle of Bannockſburne in Scotland, by which accident this caſtle devolved to * one of the daughters; and thus by marriage paſſed to Audley, in her right, earl of Gloceſter; and, he leaving

[72] Ralph de Monthermer was ſoon after this reconciliation ſummoned to parliament by the title of earl of Gloceſter and Hartford, which titles he bore till his ſon-in-law Gilbert de Clare came of age; after which he was ſummoned to the ſucceeding parliaments as Lord Monthermer only. He had two ſons by the princeſs, one of which left a daughter who was married to John Montagu earl of Saliſbury, from whom the late duke of Montague, the duke of Mancheſter, and the earls of Sandwich, Halifax, &c. derive their original.

* Margaret the ſecond daughter who was firſt married to Pierce Gaveſton.

ing no ſons, went with his daughter to Ralph earl of Stafford, who bore a conſiderable part in all the wars of that brave prince Edward the third, and dying in one thouſand, three hundred, and ſeventy-three, was buried at Tunbridge. This eſtate continued with his deſcendants, who became dukes of Buckingham, till the reign of Henry the eighth; but then, by the ſacrifice of duke Edward to the rapacious and inſatiable ambition of Cardinal Wolſey in one thouſand, five hundred, and twenty-one, it came to the [73] crown; from which time it has gradually mouldered away to its preſent ruinous condition,

Tunbridge.

[73] Queen Elizabeth gave this caſtle to her kinſman Henry Cary lord Hunſdon, and his ſon George ſettled it in marriage with his daughter upon Thomas lord Berkeley, who alienated it to Sir John Kennedy, and thus it came into private hands; but it does not appear ever to have been inhabited ſince the fall of the duke of Buckingham, as in the text. The preſent proprietor is John Hooker eſq; of Tunbridge.

Tun-bridge. condition, in which it can only ſerve as a ſubject of reflection to thoſe contemplatiſts who are diſpoſed to moralize upon the frailty and mutability of earthly things.

In times a little nearer approaching to our own, this town has been uſefully endowed with a very good free-ſchool, built and given by Sir Andrew Judd, who was * lord mayor of London in one thouſand, five hundred, and fifty-one. Sir Andrew appointed the company of Skinners for the time being the ſtanding truſtees of this noble charity, a duty which in all ages ſince they have ſo generouſly diſcharged, as not only to juſtify his choice, but alſo to encourage all judicious men to imitate his example in every work of public perpetual charity.

This

* Stowe Edit. 1633. p. 90.

This town was once ſo conſiderable as to * ſend burgeſſes to parliament; at preſent it gives title of viſcount to the earl of Rochford; and has a good market on fridays, and three fairs in the year. The preſent church is an handſome modern ſtructure, and there are ſaid to be ſome good monuments in it, particularly of the Stafford family. Tunbridge.

Since the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and forty, the river Medway has been made navigable from Maidſtone to Tunbridge, which has ſo much increaſed its trade, that it is now in a moſt flouriſhing condition, there being ſeveral very ſubſtantial tradeſmen there: and a great many good houſes have lately been erected in it by

* Notitiæ Parl. Vol. 1. in pref.

Tunbridge. by gentlemen who have fixed upon this town as their place of residence.

Sevenoak. Philipot. Lambarde. Harris. Stowe. Rapin. Hume, &c.

Sevenoak, vulgarly called Se'noak, is a good market-town about six miles farther on the London road, and in the whole near thirteen miles from Tunbridge-Wells. This place is supposed to derive its name from sevenoaks of an extraordinary height that grew in or near the town when it was first built.

Sevenoak is governed by two wardens and four assistants. There are several good houses therein, and a great number of gentlemen's seats in the country around it; but it is chiefly remarkable for the grateful charity of Sir William Sevenoak, * lord mayor of London in the year one thousand, four hundred,

* Stowe, p. 88.

hundred, and nineteen, who was a foundling in this place, from whence he took his name. Seven-oak.

Sir William was brought up, and apprenticed at the expence of Mr. William Rumſched, a charitable inhabitant of this town; and, in remembrance of his preſervation, built and endowed thirteen alms-houſes for the maintenance of aged perſons, and a ſchool for the education of poor children; which proper inſtance of generous gratitude deſerves to be handed down to poſterity.

Mr. John Potkyns, in the reign of Henry the eighth, was a great benefactor to this ſchool; and its revenue was farther augmented, and all its litigated poſſeſſions quietly eſtabliſhed by queen Elizabeth, from whence it

Seven-oak. is called queen Elizabeth's free-ſchool. The building, as it now ſtands, was erected on the old foundation in the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred, and twenty-ſeven.

This town, though it has for a long ſeries of years been in its preſent good condition, and ſurrounded by nobility and gentry who have many [75] capital houſes in the neighbourhood, is famous in the national hiſtory

[75] Amongſt which are † Chevening the ſeat of the right honourable earl Stanhope, which was deſigned by Inigo Jonés for the earl of Suſſex. * The Moat at Ightham, the ſeat of William Selby Eſq. * Ightham Court, the ſeat of William James Eſq. * St. Clair, the ſeat of William Evelyn Eſq. * Bradbourne, the ſeat of Sir Edward Bettenſon Bart. Kippington, the ſeat of Sir Charles Farnaby Bart. * The Wilderneſs, the ſeat of John Pratt Eſq. at Seale; which formerly belonged to the Bickerſtaffs, who lie buried there. All theſe are worthy of obſervation.

† Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus.

**** Mr. E. B.

history only on account of a battle that was fought here in the reign of Henry the sixth, between a part of this king's forces and Jack Cade. Seven-oak.

Jack Cade, having been instructed to assume the name of Mortimer, in order to feel how the people's pulse beat towards that family, repaired into Kent, and drew together a prodigious number of malecontents, with whom he encamped on Black-heath; but being met there by the king in person, at the head of fifteen thousand regulars, he thought proper to draw back into a wood near Sevenoak. Henry unhappily imagining, from this retreat, that the rebels were dispersed, sent a detachment of his army after their leader, under the command of Sir Humphrey Stafford, which de-

Seven-oak. tachment, unwarily falling into an ambuſcade near this town, was intirely cut to pieces, Sir Humphrey himſelf, and his brother, being ſlain on the field of battle.

Upon this ſucceſs, Cade immediately marched up to London, the king was hurried away to Kenilworth-caſtle, and the city in her firſt conſternation opened her gates to the inſurgents; but the citizens, in a few days repenting of this falſe ſtep, took the firſt opportunity to ſhut them out again, which occaſioned a long fight betwixt them and Cade, that terminated at night only in a ceſſation of arms, and at length, by a device of the archbiſhop of Canterbury's, in the total diſperſion of the rebels, and the death of their leader, who was ſoon after ſlain by Iden, at that time ſheriff of the county.

KNOWLE ſtands at a ſmall diſtance from this town, and has been a remarkable ſeat almoſt from the days of the conqueror. After paſſing through many illuſtrious families it deſcended by marriage to Sir William Fiennes, by whoſe ſon it was ſold to Bouchier, archbiſhop of Canterbury. This prelate annexed it to the archiepiſcopal ſee, and rebuilt the houſe in a magnificent manner; and his ſucceſſors afterwards much improved and augmented this noble manſion, which continued with them till in the twenty-ninth year of Henry the eighth, when [76] Cranmer, obſerving that its grandeur excited the jealouſy and envy of the nobility, exchanged it with the crown, as he did alſo the ſumptuous

Knowle
Philipot.
Harris.
Weaver.

[76] See Harris's Hiſtory of Kent, which here contradicts Philipot.

Knowle palace at * Otford, which was built by archbiſhop Wareham his immediate predeceſſor, at the expence of thirty-three thouſand pounds, but of which there is now ſcarce any remains.

Knowle continued with the crown till Edward the ſixth, in the ſecond year of his reign, granted it to his uncle the duke of Somerſet, on whoſe attainder it again reverted to the king, and by him it was given to Somerſet's enemy the ambitious duke of Northumberland, on whoſe execution it returned once more to the crown, and was by queen Mary granted to cardinal Poole for his life, and one year afterwards. When this grant was expired, queen Elizabeth gave it to her favourite, Dudley, earl of Leiceſter, who in the ſame year reſigned it back again into her

* Weaver p. 344.

her Majeſty's hands; whereupon ſhe firſt leaſed it to John Leonard of Chevening eſquire, and then, in the ſeventh year of her reign, gave it to Thomas Sackville, lord Buckhurſt, afterwards earl of Dorſet, and then lord treaſurer to the queen [77]. Knowle

This nobleman beautified the old building, made ſome expenſive additions to it, and left it in good order to his ſucceſſors: and the preſent duke of Dorſet has much improved, and made a noble ſeat of this venerable manſion, which his Grace has choſen for the

77 Philipot bringing his account ſomething lower down ſays this nobleman's grandſon, Richard earl of Dorſet, ſold the fee-ſimple of Knowle, only reſerving it in leaſe to himſelf and heirs for ninety-nine years, to Mr. Richard Smith, commonly called Dog-Smith, who ſettled the propriety of it for ever upon St. Thomas's Hoſpital in Southwark.

Philipot's Survey, page 319.

Knowle principal place of his reſidence in the country.

It is ſaid, there are ſome excellent pictures in this houſe, which, through the hoſpitality of its noble owner, it is very eaſy to get a ſight of.

This fine old manſion is ſituated in the midſt of an extenſive park, beautified with a great number of very large beech-trees, and covered with as fine a turf as any in the world. This park is well ſtocked with deer, and all ſorts of game, and the duke has lately erected a little gothic hermitage in it, at a ſmall diſtance from the houſe, which is a great curioſity in itſelf, as well as on account of the vaſt variety of uncommon birds &c. that are kept there.

IV. Somer-

IV.

SOMERHILL is a large old houſe about four miles and a half from the Wells, and one mile from Tunbridge-town. This ſeat was antiently the reſidence of the earl of Clare's bailiffs of the chace of South-frith, or foreſt of Tunbridge, and of courſe always went with the caſtle till it was forfeited to the crown by Edward duke of Buckingham. Queen Elizabeth gave it to the great Sir Francis Walſingham, and his daughter, Frances, carried it ſucceſſive-to her three huſbands, the incomparable Sir Philip Sidney, the unfortunate earl of Eſſex, and Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanrickard in Ireland, and St. Albans in England, from whoſe heirs it paſſed to lady Purbeck, a woman of magnificent ſpirit, whoſe pomp and

Somerhill. Philipot. Harris. Old MSS.

Somer-hill.

and ſplendor is ſtill a ſubject of diſcourſe in the country, and who gave the ground on which the chapel at Tunbridge-Wells is raiſed. After various other changes this eſtate came to the Woodgates, its preſent worthy poſſeſſors.

The ſtructure itſelf, notwithſtanding the ruinous ſtate it now is in, cannot fail of affording that gratification we always feel on ſurveying the venerable remains of gothic antiquity. The country around it is ſo wildly beautiful as to make it one of the moſt pleaſing romantic retirements in nature; and the ride from the Wells to this houſe is, on that account, extremely entertaining to an admirer of ſuch ſcenes.

BAYHALL ſituated in the pariſh of Pembury, about three miles eaſt of Tunbridge-Wells, is an ancient manor that once belonged to the Colepeppers, a family that was formerly of diſtinguiſhed eminence in this kingdom, one of whom was governor of Leeds caſtle in Kent when queen Iſabella, wife of Edward the ſecond, being on her pilgrimage to Canterbury benighted in that neighbourhood, ſent her marſhal forward to beg a lodging there; but the governor, more faithful to his lord than dutiful to his ſovereign, rudely refuſed admittance for the queen or any of her retinue, unleſs ſhe could produce an expreſs order from lord Badeleſmere who was then abroad. The diſtreſſed queen, unwilling to believe ſhe could receive ſo barbarous an anſwer, went herſelf to the caſtle-gates, and there had the mor-

Bayhall. Philipot. Rapin. Dugd. Bar.

Bay-hall.

tification to hear it confirmed by the governor in perſon. Upon this ſhe was obliged to take up with ſuch lodging as ſhe could procure, but did not fail on her return to make proper complaints to the king, who ſo warmly reſented this indignity, that, inſtantly gathering an army together, he laid ſiege to the caſtle, carried it, hanged the governor, and ſent lady Badeleſmere and her children to the tower.

By this imprudence Bayhall was forfeited to the crown, where it continued till Henry the ſixth granted it to the duke of Buckingham, whoſe grandſon, Edward, forfeited it to Henry the eighth. After this it was ſeveral times granted and again forfeited, till at length it came to Thomas Sackville, lord Buckhurſt, whoſe ſucceſſors in a few years conveyed their right

to

to the Amherſt family, in which it has ever ſince continued, being now poſſeſſed by the widow of Charles Brown eſquire, who was deſcended by the female ſide from the Amherſt's. Bay-hall.

The preſent neat and convenient ſtructure was raiſed by Richard Amherſt eſquire, who died in one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſixty-four, and is very pleaſingly ſituated in the midſt of fine meadows, gardens, and fiſh-ponds.

PECKHAM is about ten miles from the Wells. Sir William Twiſden has an ancient manſion here, which has been long in that family. Peck-ham. Tanner. Weaver.

Here was a preceptory belonging to the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem valued at ſixty-three pounds, ſix ſhillings,

Peck-
ham.

ſhillings, and eightpence. It is not certain by whom this was founded; Philipot ſays it was by John Colepepper in the time of Edward the ſecond, who appropriated it to the Templars, at whoſe ſuppreſſion in one thouſand, three hundred, and twenty-ſeven, it fell with their other eſtates to the Hoſpitallers; but Speed and Weaver aſſert that it was given by that John Colepepper who was one of the Juſtices of the Common Pleas in the reign of Henry the fourth, which ſeems the more probable, becauſe it is not mentioned in the account of the Templars and Hoſpitallers lands in the Monaſticon tome II.

* Robert de Thorneham gave his eſtate in this pariſh to the premonſtratenſian canons of Brokely, to found an abbey

** Weaver, p. 318, 319. Tanner, p. 561.

abbey at Beaulieu which was ſoon after incorporated with Begham. Peckham.

*OXEN-HEATH, the ſeat of Admiral Geary in the neighbourhood of Peckham, is a very good houſe. Oxen-Heath.

MEREWORTH is a moſt delightful and noble ſeat, lately deſcended, with the title of lord le Deſpenſer, from the earl of Weſtmoreland to Sir Francis Daſhwood. This place is about twelve miles from the Wells, and anciently gave name to an eminent family, who held the manor near two hundred years, when it deſcended to the Molmains, Bohuns, and Bambres, who built here a large and ſtrong houſe, reſembling a caſtle, which paſſed through the earls of Arundel to the lords Abergavenny, and from them to the le Deſpenſers Mereworth. Philipot. Dug. Bar. Monaſt.

* Mr. E. B.

Mere-worth. Deſpenſers, whoſe heir was the lady Mary Fane, created baroneſs le Deſpenſer by James the firſt, and her ſon was created earl of Weſtmoreland by the ſame monarch.

This grand and magnificent houſe was, within theſe few years, erected by the laſt earl of Weſtmoreland where the old caſtle ſtood; and is built in an elegant ſtyle of architecture, after a deſign of Colin Campbell's, in imitation of an admired edifice of the famous Palladio's in Italy.

The ſite of this noble houſe, as Palladio ſays of the original, is as delightful and pleaſant as can be imagined. It is upon a ſmall hill of very eaſy aſcent, watered on one ſide by a ſtream running into the Medway, and on the other encompaſſed with the moſt agree-

able

able riſings, which give the appearance of a grand rural theatre, cultivated and improved to the utmoſt perfection, ſo as at once to diſplay the correct taſte and the becoming magnificence of the late earl of Weſtmoreland; a noble-man, whoſe every action manifeſted a heart well-ſuited to his rank. Mere-worth.

This fine ſtructure is an exact ſquare of eighty-eight feet. In the middle there ariſes above the roof a cupola which conſiſts of two ſhells; the one forms the ſtucco cieling of the hall, and the other is carpentery covered with lead. Between theſe two ſhells is a ſtrong brick arch that brings twenty-four funnels to the lanthorn, which contrivance prevents the appear-ance of any chimney on the outſide of the houſe. And as this delightful manſion enjoys moſt beautiful views

Mere-worth.

from every part, ſome of which are limited, ſome more extenſive, and ſome that terminate with the horizon alone, there are porticos made in all the four fronts; under the floor of which, and that of the hall, are rooms for the conveniency and uſe of the family. The grand ſaloon, which is round, is in the center, and receives its light from above: the ſtate rooms divided off from it open one into the other all round the houſe, and are ſuperbly furniſhed. The kitchen and ſtables form two noble wings, which add much to the grandeur of the building. In ſhort the houſe, the gardens, the temples, the grottos, the water, the woods and the lawns, ſeverally demand our admiration and, as here united, beggar all deſcription.[78]

The

[78] The admirers of architecture will find a more

 ſatisfac-

The town of Mereworth itſelf is of little eminence; it was held in chivalry by an intire [79] knight's fee, and hath the grant of a free warren. It had once a weekly market and an annual fair, obtained by Roger de Mereworth in the twenty-eighth year of Edward the firſt; but theſe have long been diſuſed, and indeed never were very conſiderable. Mereworth.

The old church was ſituated near the caſtle, and is ſaid to have been built by the earls of Clare, who at its foundation appropriated it to the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem; but this was pulled down by the earl of Weſtmoreland, and the preſent ele-

ſatisfactory account of this ſtructure in Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus, vol. 3. p. 8.

[79] A Knight's fee was then of the value of twenty pounds per ann.

Gilbert's Hiſt. of the Exchequer, p. 32.

Mere-worth. gant ſtructure was by that nobleman raiſed in its ſtead, on an intire new foundation, and much more convenient to the town. This church is a very pretty piece of modern architecture, that will bear, and indeed richly deſerves, the attentive inſpection of the curious traveller. There are in it ſeveral antique monuments of the noble families that formerly inhabited Mereworth-caſtle, which were carefully transferred from the old church to a place particularly appropriated to this purpoſe in the modern one.

Yokes-Place. *Yokes-Place, near Mereworth, is the ſeat of Richard Maſter eſq. and a very good houſe in a pleaſing ſituation.

V.

Bay-ham-Abbey. Bayham-Abbey, or more properly Begham-

* Mr. E. B.

Begham-Abbey [80], is ſituated on the borders of Kent and Suſſex, about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Tunbridge-Wells, and was a religious ſociety of Premonſtratenſian or White Canons, which order was firſt inſtituted about the year one thouſand, one hundred, and twenty at [88] Premontre in France. They were called White Canons from

Bayham-Abbey. Dug. Bar. Monaſt. Weaver. Speed's Chro. Tanner. Collin's Bar. Burnet's Refor.

[80] The ſite of this abbey was originally both in Kent and Suſſex, as appears by the following extract from Cromwell's liſt of the monaſteries ſuppreſſed by Wolſey ——

" Abbathia Canonicorum Regularium ordinis " Præmonſtratenſis in Beghum vulgò vocat' " The Abbey of Begham" in Com. Suſſex in " honore beate Marie fundat' & quod ſcitus mo- " naſterij p'dci fuit & modo eſt in com' Kanc' & " Suſſex."

What now remains of this abbey, and the houſe built on the ſpot, are ſituate in Suſſex only.

Fiddes's life of Wolſey Collect. page 174.

[88] Premontre is an abbey of France, whoſe ſite is in the wood of Voy, and territory of Couſy in Picardy, and is the chief of the order of that name.

Buſching's Geography.

Bay-ham-Abbey.

their habit, which was a white caſſock with a rochet over it and a long white cloak. Theſe canons were introduced into England in one thouſand, one hundred, and forty-ſix, and had twenty-one religious houſes in this kingdom, the laſt of which was founded at Titchfield in Hampſhire, in the reign of Henry the third. And biſhop Burnet informs us, that the [89] firſt reſignation of any religious houſe that he could find upon record, previous to the act for ſuppreſſing

[89] The reaſon of this reſignation being ſo readily agreed to by the abbot and monks of this priory is thus related by Burnet:—Doctor Leighton, on his viſitation to the monaſteries, came ſuddenly to Langdon-Abbey, beſet the abbot in his houſe, broke open the door, catched him in bed with his whore, and upon farther ſearch found the habit that ſhe wore as a younger brother. The ſhame of this diſcovery, together perhaps with other equally weighty conſiderations, induced him immediately to ſign his reſignation, which is dated Nov. 13, 1535.

Burnet's Reform. Vol. 1. p. 191.

fing the leſſer monaſteries, was of a priory of this order at Langdon in Kent. Bayham-Abbey.

This priory of Bayham was originally founded at Stoneacre, in the pariſh of [90] Otham, near Maidſtone in Kent, by Ralph de Deane; but the canons had not long been ſettled at Stoneacre, before they began to make very heavy complaints of the unhealthineſs of their ſituation, and the ſcarcity of proviſions for their ſuſtenance, which, whether juſtly founded

[90] The author of England Illuſtrated in the firſt volume of his work has rightly enough informed his readers that theſe canons were removed from Otham near Maidſtone to the abbey of Begham on the borders of Suſſex; but with an inaccuracy of which there are too many examples in that work; in contradiction to this account, we are told in the ſecond volume, that this abbey was originally founded at a place called Hotteham, near Haylſham, in Suſſex.

Eng. Illuſt. Vol. 1. p. 364. Vol. 2. p. 299.

Bay-ham-Abbey.

or not, ſo wrought on the compaſſionate diſpoſition of Ela de Sackville of Buckhurſt, the daughter and co-heireſs of the ſaid Ralph de Deane, that ſhe tranſplanted them to Begham, building them a capacious priory in honour of St. Mary, upon a piece of ground given for that purpoſe by Sir Robert de Thorneham, in the time of Richard the firſt. [91]

Bayham was largely endowed by Ralph de Deane and his nephew, and particularly by the before-mentioned Ela, and her ſon Geoffrey de Sackville; which endowments were continually increaſed by their pious patrons the Sackville

[91] A monaſtery of Præmonſtratenſian canons founded at Brockley near Deptford, and another founded at Beaulieu near Begham, were about the ſame time tranſplanted from their reſpective priories, and incorporated with theſe monks at Begham. Eng. Illuſt. Vol. 1. 364. Vol. 2. 299. Monaſt. Ang. T. 2. p. 638.

Sackville family, * who for ſome ages were buried there: and theſe donations were all confirmed, and ſome conſiderable emoluments added to the canons, by ſeveral charters from king John, Henry the third, and Edward the ſecond. Bayham-Abbey.

But, nevertheleſs, it was the fate of this priory to be included amongſt the firſt of thoſe that were diſſolved by Cardinal Wolſey to build and endow his colleges at Ipſwich and Oxford. Its valuation, at this ſuppreſſion, was eſtimated at † one hundred fifty-two pounds, nineteen ſhillings, and fourpence halfpenny per annum.

The ruins of Bayham are kept in very good order by the preſent proprietor

* Collins's Baronage, p. 383.
† Weaver, p. 319.

Bayham Abbey.

prietor, John Pratt eſquire, nephew of the right honourable lord Cambden. This gentleman has lately built a very neat houſe upon the ſpot in the gothic manner, which judiciouſly preſerves an uniformity of effect, through the whole of this venerable ſcene.

Lamberhurſt.

A ſtream of the river Medway runs cloſe by this abbey, and paſſes through a little town, called LAMBERHURST, in its way to Yalding, where it joins the main river. This town of Lamberhurſt is only remarkable for being the great thoroughfare to Rye and Haſtings; but, as the company uſually ride over the foreſt from the Wells to Bayham, to return back by this turnpike road may afford an acceptable variety.

Combwell.

COMBWELL, ſituated about two miles beyond Lamberhurſt, was a religious

ſeminary

seminary of the order of St. Auguſtine, and founded by that munificent benefactor to the monks Sir Robert de Thorneham in the time of king Henry the ſecond. * This was at firſt an abbey, but, its endowments being too ſmall to ſupport the ſtate and dignity of an abbot, it was ſoon reduced to a priory, and is perhaps the only inſtance of ſuch a reduction to be met with in the monaſtic hiſtory of this kingdom. The revenues of this houſe lay ſcattered about in ſeveral neighbouring pariſhes †, and in Goudhurſt there was a ſmall convent of nuns which was principally ſupported by the charity of theſe monks, who probably found it very convenient to have a cell of females ſo near them. This houſe was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen,

Combwell. Tanner. Philipot. Dugdale.

* Tanner's Notitia in pref. p. 27.
† Philipot, p. 171.

Comb-well. dalen, and consisted of a prior and six canons. It was dissolved at the general suppression, and its valuation then estimated at eighty-pounds, seventeen shillings, and five-pence per annum. * In the twenty-ninth year of Henry the eighth it was granted to Thomas Colepepper, and is now converted into a good farm-house.

Brenchley. Philipot. Rapin. Guthrie. Brenchley is situated about four miles from Lamberhurst, and six miles east of Tunbridge-Wells. This is a small town which was once part of the prodigious estate of the earls of Clare; but at present it is not remarkable for any thing unless it be the manor of—

Bokinfold. Bokinfold, the site of which is partly in this parish and partly in Goud-

* Tanner, p. 216.

Goudhurſt. According to Philipot this manor was given by Hamon de Crevequer to chauntries eſtabliſhed by him in each of theſe pariſhes, which grant was confirmed by Edward the third, in the forty-firſt year of his reign; but the general diſſolution lodged it in the hands of the crown, after which being granted by king Henry the eighth to Paul Sidnore eſquire, it deſcended into private hands, and became inſtrumental to better purpoſes than the maintenance of a few lazy monks. Bokinfold.

The manſion-houſe of Bokinfold was once ſurrounded with a park, and of ſome conſiderable eminence in the country, as appears from Edward the ſecond's repoſing here in the eighteenth year of his reign, when, being determined to go over into France to do

Bokinfold. do homage for his dutchy of Guienne, he had got so far on his journey before those * subtle proposals came over from Charles, which he unsuspectingly agreed to, and thereby enabled his treacherous and lustful queen to complete his ruin. Before king Edward left this house, he caused several persons to be indicted for unlawfully hunting in the park, and punished them according to their demerits. This park has now been so many years inclosed and cultivated, that it is not easy to trace any marks of it; and the house has few remains of its ancient grandeur left.

Goudhurst. Harris. Willis. Goudhurst, mentioned under the preceding article, is situated on the south side of Kent, about twelve miles from Tunbridge-Wells. The church is

* Rapin, vol. 1. p. 399.

is a large handſome ſtructure whoſe ſite is an exceeding high hill, and the ſpire once was very lofty, but, being deſtroyed ſomething more than an hundred and twenty years ago in a terrible ſtorm of thunder, it has never ſince been effectually repaired. * This church was originally dedicated to St. Mary, and appropriated to the priory of Leeds. It is now in the gift of the chapter of Rocheſter. It is ſaid there are ſome remarkably good monuments in this church, that the wainſcot behind the communion table is uncommonly handſome, and alſo that there are ſome good remains of painted glaſs in the windows. Goudhurſt.

When the ſmugglers were at their height, they ſent a challenge, and came in a body to this town, with an intent to

* Willis, vol. 3. p. 9.

Goudhurſt. to deſtroy it; but the townſmen, bravely defending themſelves, killed ſeveral of thoſe daring villains, and fairly drove them off the field of battle.

VI.

Frant. *Frant is a little village about two miles from the Wells. The church is erected on a very high hill, and is a * curacy in the gift of the rector of Rotherfield, to which in ancient time it was a chapel.

Wadhurſt. Wadhurst is a little town about ſix miles ſouth-eaſt of Tunbridge-Wells, in a dirty part of the county of Suſſex. † The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; and the vicarage is in the patronage of Wadham College Oxon. It is ſituated in the ſee of Chicheſter,

* Willis's Survey, vol. 3. p. 66.
† Willis's Survey, vol. 3. in app. p. 15.

Chicheſter, but is a peculiar belonging to the juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury. Wadhurſt.

This place was once inhabited by a great number of Baptiſts, who, in the time of Charles the ſecond and his ſucceſſors of the Stuart race, were glad to fly to ſuch wild and ſolitary places that they might unnoticed perform their religious duties according to the dictates of their own conſciences; but, ſince the acceſſion of the preſent royal family, the Baptiſts have there, as well as every-where elſe in England, together with all the other Diſſenters in general, dwindled away almoſt to nothing, ſo true is the obſervation of * Voltaire, that "where religious differences are not fomented by the intruſion of the civil magiſtrate,

* Voltaire's Hiſt. of the Quakers.

Wadhurſt. the national church will in time ſwallow up all the reſt."

Rotherfield. ROTHERFIELD is a ſmall town about ſix miles ſouth of Tunbridge-Wells, ſituated in the wild of Suſſex, and of very little eminence. The pariſh is very extenſive, and the living, which is valued in the king's books at twenty-ſeven pounds, twelve ſhillings, and ſixpence, is in the gift of lord Abergavenny.

The church is dedicated to St. Dennis *, and, about the year eight hundred, Berthwald duke of the South-Saxons founded a convent of monks at this place, ſubordinate to the abbey of St. Dennis in France, of which there is not at preſent the leaſt remains.

MAY-

* Creſſey's Eccl. hiſt. p. 651.

MAYFIELD is a ſmall town in Suſſex about eight miles ſouth of Tunbridge-Wells. * The church is dedicated to St. Dunſtan, and the vicarage, though ſituated in the dioceſe of Chicheſter, is a peculiar ſubordinate to the juriſdiction of the metropolitan ſee of Canterbury. Mayfield.

The archbiſhops of Canterbury had once a ſumptuous palace in this town, of which there ſtill are ſome very conſiderable remains, where are preſerved the tongs and anvil of St. Dunſtan, together with ſome other relicts of popiſh ſuperſtition.

† Here too the famous Sir Thomas Greſham had a houſe, which ſeems to have been his principal ſeat, as the

* Willis's Survey in app. vol. 3. p. 14.
† Ward's Lives of Greſ. Prof. p. 27.

May-field. furniture belonging to it was eſtimated at above ſeven thouſand, five hundred, and fifty pounds, which was a prodigious ſum in that early age of commerce, and greatly ſuperior to the value of all his other houſes put together. One room in this houſe was called the Queen's-chamber, but whether from being viſited by queen Elizabeth, or not, does not appear.

This town is ſituated upon the top of an hill, and therefore extremely pleaſant in the ſummer ſeaſon; but, in the winter, the roads all around it are ſo execrably bad, that its inhabitants are in a manner impriſoned during one half of the year.

There are ſome good houſes in Mayfield, and as it is inhabited by ſeveral opulent families, who have hitherto retained

retained ſo much of the ſober ſenſe of our anceſtors, as to expend the produce of their eſtates at home, it wears the pleaſing appearance of plenty. Mayfield.

VII.

CROWBOROUGH-HILL, about ſeven miles ſouth-weſt of Tunbridge-Wells, is a pleaſant mountainous riſe of ground, from whence there is an extenſive view of the wild of Suſſex, which has been, not unaptly, compared to a flat ſea lying beneath the hill, with here and there an houſe or a church, which, to carry on the ſimilitude, bear ſome reſemblance to ſhips on the ocean, while the hilly downs form a bold ſhore, at twenty miles diſtance on the other ſide. Crowboro'.

On this wild common, within theſe

Crowboro'.

few years, a neat chapel and ſchool have been erected, by the judicious charity of the late Sir Henry Fermor baronet of Sevenoak; who, by his laſt will, left the ſum of fifteen hundred pounds for this purpoſe, and alſo a ſufficient fund to keep it in repair for ever, and to provide for the maintenance of a clergyman and a ſchoolmaſter, as well as for the cloathing and educating of forty poor boys and girls belonging to Rotherfield and Buxted pariſhes. The children are to continue four years at this ſchool, and to be inſtructed in the important articles of reading, writing, and vulgar arithmetick.

The good effects of this noble charity are very conſpicuous in that wild country, whoſe inhabitants were more like ſavages than members of a civilized

zed nation, till they had this opportunity of cultivation. Crowborough.

This chapel and ſchool-houſe are built in a very elevated ſituation, and therefore eaſily ſeen from Tunbridge-Wells common [92].

VIII.

WITHYHAM is about ſeven miles weſt of Tunbridge-Wells, and is the ancient eſtate and ſeat of the noble family of the Sackvilles. * The pariſh church is the general burying-place of this very ancient family, who have, for many generations back, been all inter- Withyham.

[92] Sir Henry Fermor died the ſecond of June, 1734. The whole ſum he left to Crowborough was nine thouſand pounds: beſides which he left, in various other charities, ſo much as made the whole amount to more than twenty thouſand pounds.

* Dugdale's Bar. vol. 2. Collins's Baron.

Withy-ham. red here. The chapel in which they lie was rebuilt by Richard earl of Dorſet, who was himſelf buried in it, in one thouſand, ſix hundred, and twenty-four. Amongſt the epitaphs on the monuments of this noble family, there is the following, wrote by the celebrated Mr. Pope—

On Charles earl of Dorſet.

Dorſet, the grace of courts, the muſes pride,
Patron of arts, and judge of nature, dy'd!
The ſcourge of pride, though ſanctify'd or great,
Of fops in learning, and of knaves in ſtate:
Yet ſoft his nature, though ſevere his lay,
His anger moral, and his wiſdom gay.
Bleſt ſatyriſt! who touch'd the mean ſo true,
As ſhew'd, vice had his hate and pity too.
Bleſt courtier! who could king and country pleaſe,
Yet ſacred keep his friendſhips and his eaſe.
Bleſt peer! his great forefather's ev'ry grace
Reflecting and reflected in his race;

Where

Where other Buckhurſts, other Dorſets ſhine,
And patriots ſtill, or poets, deck the line. Withyham.

The manſion-houſe is called Stoneland, and is a pretty compact building, with a good park ſurrounding it. Stoneland.

The parſonage-houſe has, within theſe few years, been rebuilt by the preſent incumbent, the reverend Mr. Bale, in a very elegant manner. Its ſituation is rendered extremely pleaſant, by a fine open proſpect in front, which is extended a great many miles over a well improved country. Parſonage.

The curate of Withyham, a good-natured worthy man, about ten or twelve years ago, opened a ſchool in this pariſh which has met with great encouragement from the ſurrounding farmers; and, as he is equally attentive

to

Parſonage. to the morals and learning of the children placed under his care, he thereby renders himſelf extenſively uſeful to his country, and at the ſame time ſets an example which deſerves the imitation of other curates in different parts of the kingdom, who, after the ſucceſs he has met with, though their pariſhes be ever ſo thin of inhabitants, need not deſpair of adding to their narrow ſtipends, if they will but be as diligent to merit the eſteem and confidence of their pariſhioners.

Buckhurſt. BUCKHURST is an ancient manor in the pariſh of Withyham, which gives title of lord to the duke of Dorſet.

* This was anciently the principal ſeat of the Sackvilles, to whom it devolved from Ralph de Dene, by his daugh-

* Dugdale's Bar. vol. 2. Collins's Bar. p. 382.

daughter and co-heireſs Ela, the wife of Jordan de Sackville, from whom this noble family is lineally deſcended. Buck-hurſt.

This old manſion was a very large and ſtrong houſe, when inhabited by its noble proprietors; but, ſince the earl of Dorſet obtained Knowle in Kent from the crown, has been ſo totally neglected, that it is now almoſt intirely gone to decay; though, it is ſaid, its ruins are ſtill well worth the inſpection of the admirers of ancient architecture, and one tower in particular is much talked of in the country.

KIDBROOK, about nine miles weſt of Tunbridge-Wells, is the manſion-houſe of the right honourable lord Abergavenny. Kid-brook.

It is an elegant ſtructure, in the modern

Kid-brook. dern taſte, ſituated in a very wild and pleaſant country, which abounds with game of all kinds.

* And near it are the remains of Bramblety, a very ancient building, which was long the manſion-houſe of this noble family.

Eaſt-Grin-ſtead. East-Grinstead is mentioned as the weſtern boundary of Tunbridge-Wells, becauſe it is the only town of any note on that ſide. It is ſituated at the northern extremity of Suſſex, almoſt on the borders of Surrey and Kent, and about thirteen miles from the Wells. It is an ancient town which came to the family of the Sackvilles about the time of Edward the third.

Robert

* Mr. E. B.

Robert the ſecond earl of Dorſet, in the reign of James the firſt, left, by his * laſt will, a thouſand pounds to build a college in this town, for thirty-one poor unmarried perſons; namely, twenty-one men, and ten women: and his lordſhip endowed this hoſpital with three hundred and thirty pounds per annum for their maintenance, and ordered it to be called, as it now is, "Sackville-college." It is a ſtrong brick building ſituated at one end of the town, and well contrived for the purpoſe. East-Grinſtead.

The town itſelf is irregularly built, with only two or three tolerable houſes in it, the others being very mean; but, as it is the great thoroughfare to Lewes, it has a good trade, and the "Crown" is ſaid to be as good an inn as

* Dugdale, vol. 2. p. Collins's Bar. p. 448.

East-Grinstead.

as any in Suſſex. This town is a borough by preſcription, and ſends two members to parliament, who are elected by about thirty-five burgage-holders, the returning officer being the bailiff, choſen by a jury at the duke of Dorſet's court-leet. Henry the ſeventh granted a charter for a monthly market here; and the aſſizes are held at Eaſt-Grinſtead every third year in rotation, Lewes and Horſham being the other county towns. It has four fairs in the year, and ſome of them are very conſiderable for welch runts, and all other cattle, which are brought here in great plenty, to ſupply the farmers of Kent, Suſſex, and Surrey.

Clatford.

CLATFORD, the ſeat of John Evelyn eſquire; is ſaid to be an extremely good houſe: it is in the neighbourhood of this town on the Surrey ſide; and

and travellers who are obliged to ſtop at Eaſt-Grinſtead for refreſhment can ſcarce ſpend their ſpare time better than in ſurveying it. The ſituation of this houſe is very pleaſant, it being ſurrounded with meadows watered by running ſtreams, and having its neighbouring hills covered with wood, ſo as to make it on the whole a delightful ſummer retreat; but the badneſs of the roads all around it, except the turnpike, renders it a diſagreeable winter ſituation. Clatford.

IT certainly is going a great way from the place the author has been treating of, to get ſo far into Suſſex and Surrey, as he now is; but as many gentlemen are fond of excurſions in the ſummer, and as the ride from Tunbridge-Wells to theſe places, in that ſeaſon, is far from being diſagreeable, Concluſion.

Conclusion.

he hopes it will not be esteemed an useless digression, especially as he was under a necessity of recurring to East-Grinstead, for a boundary sufficiently distinguished to point out the situation of the Wells in a general map.

And if, in this part of the work, it happens that the author has either omitted, or been less particular in the account of any place than might be expected from him, let it be remembered that, as the design of publishing this book was never entertained till after he was settled in London, every omission or neglect of this kind is wholly owing to the difficulties that he has found in his endeavours to obtain any authentic or more compleat information in relation to those places.

THE

APPENDIX.

CHAP. I.

Of the intereſt of the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells.

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

THOUGH Tunbridge-Wells is now become a populous and a flouriſhing village, there is, in the preſent ſtate of things, very little internal wealth amongſt its inhabitants, but what intirely depends upon the water; if therefore the ſprings were to fail, or, which is far more probable, become unfaſhionable, the place itſelf muſt in a few years return to its original ſtate, unleſs ſome method could be diſcovered of keeping up a trade,

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

and drawing wealth into it, of which it is now difficult to form any idea.

To illuſtrate this obſervation, we need only paint the conſequences of a bad ſeaſon amongſt the inferior tradeſmen in its proper colours; and, though the men of ſubſtance and property do not ſo immediately feel its ſevere effects, yet they muſt acknowledge that a few repetitions of the ſame deſtructive potion would be ſufficient to compleat their ruin, for certainly thoſe houſes, in which the greater part of their ſubſtance conſiſts, are only valuable in proportion to the company, by which they are occupied in the ſummer.

Thus it appears that, in the preſent ſituation of things, this people

ſtand all upon nearly the ſame precarious foundation, and conſequently, that it is their intereſt to endeavour to procure for themſelves a more independent ſtate, ſince nothing is ſo variable as faſhion: and it ſhould ſeem that no courſe of action will better anſwer this important end, than making it their ſtudy to increaſe the internal trade of the place, and to keep the wealth, that is brought to them in the ſeaſon, as much as poſſible circulating amongſt themſelves.

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

How to accompliſh this is the grand queſtion, but, difficult as it may ſeem, it probably is reducible to theſe three heads ——

Firſt, Let the ſubſtantial inhabitants give their attention to farming.

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

Secondly, Let all encourage and promote a mutual trade among themſelves to the utmoſt of their power in every branch of buſineſs.

Thirdly, Let it be their endeavour to engage the trade of the ſurrounding country as far as poſſible.

I. By giving their attention to farming, in the proper cultivation of their own lands, and the improvement of the ſurrounding foreſt, they will prevent the neceſſity of ſending their money to diſtant markets for many of thoſe neceſſaries of which there is ſo great a conſumption in the time of the ſeaſon, and the advantages reſulting from this are too evident to require any illuſtration: one would think too the profits, certainly ariſing from an induſtrious application to this article, would

would be a ſufficient inducement to ſtir up the men of property thus to employ their money and their time, which can ſcarcely be improved to better purpoſes. Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

II. To promote a mutual trade amongſt themſelves in every branch of buſineſs, it is neceſſary to encourage an open and honeſt diſpoſition amongſt the tradeſmen, and cordially to avoid and diſcountenance all thoſe undermining methods of tranſacting affairs which are a diſgrace to trade in general, and the certain bane of every place where they are encouraged.

To anſwer this end, nothing can be more eſſentially neceſſary than to cultivate a ſpirit of concord and public affection amongſt the inhabitants; for, as they all have a mutual depen-

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

dence upon each other, they ought to be cemented together in the ſtrong ties of amity, and to know that by promoting their neighbour's intereſt they take the beſt and ſureſt method to advance their own.

In circumſtances like theſe their prices will be one, and their advantages, by becoming equal, muſt be greatly increaſed. Of this, if it were neceſſary, it would be eaſy to produce an inſtance from the fortune * of one ſet of men, who by this conduct have raiſed themſelves, without incurring the reproach of extortion, to a very conſiderable degree of eminence in the place.

And, if all in general were to act on the ſame plan, there is no doubt but this, by raiſing individuals to a better

* The Butchers.

ſtate, would furniſh means ready upon every occaſion to promote the common good, and to render the whole much leſs dependent upon that foreign aſſiſtance, without which it is not now poſſible, that any of them ſhould be long able to ſupport their credit upon the ſpot. Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

But if inſtead of this, from a fancied oppoſition and claſhing of intereſt, from an envious dread of ſeeing others become their equals or ſuperiors in point of fortune, or from any other meanly ſelfiſh conſiderations of the ſame kind, the people of ſubſtance endeavour to undermine others in the prices of their houſes and goods; to bring in and ſupport temporary traders to underſell the ſettled inhabitants; or, on account of trifling advantages, unneceſſarily to deal with ſtrangers and

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

to expend their money at diſtant markets; all this muſt aſſuredly be leſſening the well-being of the place in general, and prove on the whole a much greater public damage than, in any circumſtances, it can be a private benefit.

III. To engage the trade of the ſurrounding country, it is neceſſary that the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells, in all their unavoidable dealings abroad, ſhould always give the preference to thoſe farmers and tradeſmen, who are the moſt conveniently ſituated for expending their money in the place.

But to anſwer this end nothing can be more eſſential than to keep commodities of all kinds at the moſt reaſonable rates. Without this it will be

vain

vain to think even of a good internal trade among themſelves, and much more vain to hope to draw in that of the ſurrounding country. The tradeſmen cannot more effectually hurt themſelves, or ruin the trade of the place, than by neglecting to attend to this article, for certainly whoever has money to lay out will carry it to the cheapeſt market; it therefore muſt aſſuredly be the intereſt of every branch of buſineſs to make this point their principal aim.

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

And, to keep goods at the loweſt prices, it ought to be the general concern effectually to diſcourage the entrance of too many into any one branch of trade. The reaſon of this is plain. Every man ought to live by the trade he purſues, and conſequently, where the return is ſmall, the profits

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

fits ſhould be proportionably large, or the tradeſman muſt fail: while on the other hand an extenſive trade enables a man to deal for leſs profit, and thus to become a public benefit to the place he inhabits.

It may poſſibly be objected to this, that rivalſhip in trade is always eſteemed beneficial to the public, by its tendency to keep goods at a marketable price, and to prevent thoſe combinations of particular branches, whereby one ſet of men ſhall be enabled to impoſe in the moſt flagrant manner upon a whole people.—And this reaſoning will certainly hold good ſo long as trade is not really over-burthened; but, whenever that is the caſe, the conſequences reſulting from it muſt be as before deſcribed, and therefore the neceſſity of mutually dealing with each

each other, and preventing needy adventurers from increaſing the number of tradeſmen beyond what the demand of the place and its neighbourhood can poſſibly ſupport, muſt for ever appear in the ſtrongeſt light to all men of ſenſe and reflection. Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

Upon the whole, if the unity and public affection, thus honeſtly recommended, be cultivated in a proper manner at Tunbridge-Wells, general opulence will undoubtedly be more eaſily attained, private fortunes be more frequently made, the means of living be more abundant and plentiful, and conſequently the inhabitants increaſed, and the independency of the country ſo far eſtabliſhed, that a bad ſeaſon or two, inſtead of throwing all into deſpair and confuſion, will hardly be felt, and may at any time be eaſily retrieved.

Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

retrieved. Such are the natural conſequences of amity and concord, "but, "when a houſe or city is divided "againſt itſelf, it cannot ſtand."

It is not to be ſuppoſed but there are ſome obſtacles to this general union, which it may be difficult at firſt to overcome—one there certainly is which ought however to be ſpeedily removed, namely, that mean and ſcandalous practice of [93] "Touting" which the greateſt part of theſe tradeſmen have ſo prepoſterouſly fallen into.

This abſurd cuſtom is now carried to ſuch exceſſive heights that it not only inflames the malevolent paſſions to

[93] By touting is meant, the tradeſmen's meeting the company on the road at their firſt arrival, to ſolicit their cuſtom while they continue at the Wells.

to ſuch a degree as to raiſe heats and never-ceaſing animoſities among themſelves, not only is beyond all conception troubleſome to the company on their near arrival; but alſo, as its natural conſequence, begets ſuch a meanneſs of ſpirit, occaſions ſuch a neglect of buſineſs, engenders ſuch idle habits, and is attended with ſuch needleſs expences, that in every reſpect it is moſt fatally ruinous and deſtructive to the intereſt of the people, and the welfare of the place. Intereſt of the Inhabitants.

CHAP. II.

Of the improvements that may be made at Tunbridge-Wells.

IMPROVEMENTS are ſo much the intereſt of a public place, that it is in ſome meaſure ſtraining a point to treat of them in a ſeparate chapter; for, Improvements.

as

Improvements.

as the well-being of theſe places depends upon the company that reſort to them, nothing can be more evident than the importance of the inhabitants endeavouring to draw company thither, by concurring to make the place they belong to as agreeable and commodious as it poſſibly can be.

And Tunbridge-Wells, notwithſtanding the degree of maturity to which it is arrived, is not yet ſo perfect but that it will admit of very conſiderable improvements, ſome of which may be made to add to the amuſements of thoſe who go there in ſearch of pleaſure, others to increaſe its beneficial effects to ſuch as attend it for the recovery of health, and others to add to the advantages of its conſtant

ſtant inhabitants by extending their trade. Improvements.

With the greateſt pleaſure i have heard that this ſubject of improvements has lately been ſeriouſly canvaſſed among ſome of the principal inhabitants of the place, and that, amongſt other uſeful and important works, a turn-pike road from Tunbridge-Wells to Lewes is one that has been mentioned: whether it is likely to ſucceed or not, i am not informed; but, be this as it will, it certainly is a ſcheme which carries the appearance of the higheſt degree of utility, as it cannot fail of eſtabliſhing a more open and conſtant communication between the Wells and all that part of Suſſex. One advantage moſt obviouſly ariſing from it will be an inducement to the company going to and returning from Turn-pike to Lewes.

Bright-

Turnpike to Lewes.

Brighthelmſtone to paſs two or three days or a week by the way at Tunbridge, and this will be making that place as ſerviceable to the Wells, in ſome reſpects, as it may be eſteemed detrimental in others. If indeed Brighthelmſtone was the ſuperior place, where pleaſures abounded in greater perfection than at the Wells, it might be bad policy to open an eaſier communication between them; but, as Tunbridge has confeſſedly greatly the advantage of her rival in every reſpect, ſhe cannot ſuffer, but muſt, on the whole, be an infinite gainer by ſuch a cloſe compariſon as will, while it ſets off her perfections to the greateſt advantage, make her adverſary's deficiencies but the more conſpicuous.

Market.

And if, while this work is carrying on, the inhabitants, to complete their pro-

project for advancing the intereſt of the place, would get a market eſtabliſhed at Tunbridge-Wells, this would undoubtedly bring ſuch an increaſe of trade as muſt be univerſally beneficial. Market.

A ſcheme of this kind will aſſuredly be attended with many diſcouragements at firſt, which it will require firmneſs and perſeverance in the inhabitants to overcome; but if the townſmen in general, to encourage their own market, determine among themſelves to go to no other, there are inhabitants in number, and of ſubſtance enough to promote ſuch a ſale, as ſhall make it worth the neighbouring farmers while to bring their goods to them, in preference to any other.

And perhaps this ſcheme will be greatly facilitated by making a good

Market. road between the Wells and Woodſgate, as this will be laying all that ſide of the country open to themſelves, and conſequently tend to enlarge their communication, and extend their trade to the ſurrounding farmers.

It is indeed to be feared that there are men of narrow ſouls and ſhort-ſighted views, who, incapable themſelves of comprehending the advantages of an extended trade, and full of fears of being hurt by they know not what, will endeavour to inſtill their prejudices into the minds of their countrymen, and ſupport their oppoſition to theſe improvements by all the ſpecious arguments that ſophiſtry can invent; and happy will it be for the place in general, if they do not ſo far prevail over weak minds, as to defeat the moſt ſalutary ſchemes that ever were

were propoſed for the benefit of Tun-bridge-Wells; but in full hope that ſuch perſons, if ſuch there are, will have but little influence, i now proceed to mention ſome leſs important, though far from contemptible additions that may be made to the pleaſures or convenience of this place. Market.

The firſt, and moſt conſiderable improvement to be recommended, is to make an artificial warm bath of the mineral water. Warm Bath.

This is a piece of advice in which i have long been anticipated by doctor Linden, in his "treatiſe on the "origin and nature of chalybeate "water."——

"I am really ſurprized (ſays he) "that theſe artificial baths are ſo little

Warm Bath.

" known and, made uſe of: and, as i
" take this neglect to be a great loſs
" and detriment to the community,
" i would perſuade all proprietors of
" theſe wells, but particularly of
" thoſe at Tunbridge in Kent (which
" are of the beſt and moſt uſeful
" kind of water for this purpoſe) to
" erect theſe baths without farther
" loſs of time: and if any aſſiſtance,
" that is in my power to lend, is
" wanted thereto, i ſhould be very
" happy in giving my advice and di-
" rection, for the completion of a
" work ſo inſtrumental to the public
" good *."

Doctor Linden has not only thus ſtrongly recommended theſe baths, but given ſome very clear and particular directions in his book how they may be

* Linden on waters, page 66.

be moſt conveniently formed: and, as the whole apparatus is ſimple and plain, and the ſituation of the wells ſo ſuitable, that the little houſe adjoining may be very eaſily adapted to the purpoſe of a bath, and the ſpring, which now runs waſte, made to furniſh a ſufficiency of water, moſt completely to anſwer this intention, it may perhaps be more attentively thought of than it hitherto has been. Warm Bath.

For a particular deſcription of the machine for heating the mineral water, without detriment to its virtues, ſee "Linden on chalybeate water, page "61-64.

Probably, if ever any ſcheme of this kind ſhould be put into execution at Tunbridge-Wells, there will be ſome contrivance for a bathing ciſtern much

Warm Bath.

more convenient and agreeable, and at the ſame time equally as uſeful as the bathing tub deſcribed and recommended by doctor Linden; or at leaſt, if it be judged neceſſary to have ſuch a tub to anſwer the medicinal intention of theſe baths in ſome caſes, yet, as pleaſure is to be conſulted as well as health, and both are as near as poſſible in all inſtances to be united in ſuch a place as Tunbridge-Wells, it muſt certainly be proper to add to this a more capacious bath.

That this would be an agreeable and a uſeful improvement is highly probable, for certainly, as the pleaſure of bathing is very conſiderable, ſo its utility, in various diſeaſes of the human body, is inconteſtable; and as Tunbridge-Wells is already happily poſſeſſed of a cold bath not to be exceeded in the

the kingdom, and of a mineral water as fit for the purpoſe of an [94] artificial warm Bath.

[94] Doctor Linden, in many caſes, gives the preference to the artificial warm bath above the natural, becauſe the fixed mineral ſpirits in the natural hot waters are too powerful and heavy for ſome patients; promote too rapid a circulation of the blood, force and ſeparate too much ſerum therefrom, and often-times produce other fatal conſequences.

There are many diſorders, he ſays, ſuch as the contraction of the nerves from ſcorbutic matter, barrenneſs, and other obſtructions incident to women, in which the natural baths are only relievers, while the artificial baths are found a cure. This he aſcribes to the volatile ſpirit of theſe waters penetrating through all the ſmall and minute veſſels, and thus removing the occaſion of many diſorders in which the natural hot waters cannot be ſo ſerviceable on account of their loſing this excellent ſpirit by their continual heat.

To this he adds, that there are two ſorts of artificial warm baths, one of which is contrived to preſerve as much as poſſible of the volatile mineral ſpirit, which, in bathing, penetrates through the ſkin, ſinews, nerves, and muſcles, and irritating them by that means braces and elevates the relaxed and weak veſſels, and reſtores them to their natural vigour: and thus the whole ſyſtem recovers itſelf, and the peccant matter is expelled, and carried off by perſpiration.

Warm Bath.

warm bath as any in nature, it only wants the latter to make it one of the compleateſt places in the world for the reſtoration of health.

We know from continually repeated experience, that, by drinking this water, obſtructions of all kinds are removed; the blood diluted, attenuated, and ſweetened; the nerves braced and ſtrengthened; and the digeſtions powerfully aſſiſted; and it is highly reaſonable to conclude that its effects would be greater, and more conſpicuous, if an artificial warm bath was erected in the place, as this would enlarge

But theſe baths, which are generally uſed for weak and decayed nerves, and have been by experience found extremely beneficial in theſe complaints, ought never to be uſed without the advice and aſſiſtance of a ſkilful phyſician, acquainted with the conſtitution and diſeaſe of the patient, and with the nature of the waters of which the bath is prepared.

Linden on waters, page 58—65.

large its beneficial influence in many cases, capable of much additional assistance from a proper external application of this valuable remedy. Warm Bath.

The next improvement, that seems to call for the attention of the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells, is an effectual amendment of all the roads in and near the place. The necessity of setting about this important work becomes every year more evident, and one would think the advantages, naturally resulting from it, would be a sufficient motive to its vigorous prosecution. Roads.

In what manner the turnpike road from Tunbridge-town to the Wells should be managed, must be left to the commissioners; but the very disagreable condition, in which that road

Roads. is now ſuffered to remain, certainly leaves the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells much room to remonſtrate againſt the preſent management, and to inſiſt upon ſomething being done on their ſide of the gate anſwerable to the ſums collected on account of the reſort to that place.

The roads within the place muſt be the work of the inhabitants themſelves, and to have the principal of them, eſpecially round the parade, and up Mount-Sion-Hill, well paved, in the manner of other country-towns, would be an undertaking no leſs honourable to the preſent generation, than uſeful to the future.

The bye roads ſurrounding the Wells muſt alſo be the work of the inhabitants, in conjunction with the pa-

riſhes

riſhes in which they happen to be ſitu- Roads.
ated—The moſt material of theſe is the road to Woodſgate, and the roads leading to the Foreſt, that the company may have a greater variety of airings than they now can enjoy.

To make a pleaſant and good road to the Foreſt would be a uſeful work, and highly agreeable to the company, for, as ſcarce any ground can afford finer airings, if it was not for the difficulty of getting on it, and eſpecially with carriages, it would be continually frequented. It is therefore highly deſirable to have a convenient road from Mount-Sion to Hall's-Hole, and ſo on to the Foreſt; and again from the Chapel to the Blue-bell, and from thence either down the oppoſite lane, or round the borders of the incloſed lands, to the ſame place. Thus as fine

Roads. fine a ſhaded airing might eaſily be formed as almoſt any in England, and the Foreſt will then lie open to the excurſions of the company, in all that variety of agreeable rides that are there to be found.

The next thing to be recommended, under the article of improvements, is works of an ornamental kind, contrived to diverſify the pleaſures of the place, and thus to make it more univerſally entertaining.

The Groves. Fit for this purpoſe is a grove of trees at the foot of Mount-Sion, by the ſide of a running ſtream that divides Kent from Suſſex. This little ſpot may be greatly improved at a trifling expence, becauſe bounteous nature has already prepared it for the work. If the brook, ſo far as it can be

ſeen,

ſeen, was cut into a ſerpentine rivulet, and always kept full of water, with a gentle caſcade at the end of it; if the green deſcent was formed into a regular ſlope, with a good quickſet hedge planted on the right hand, and ſome tufts on the other ſide of the water to conceal the ſtables and diſagreeable objects; and if the walk itſelf was properly levelled from one end to the other; the whole would exhibit a moſt romantic and delightful ſcene. The Groves.

On the top of the ſame hill, there is a grove of oaks, already dedicated to the amuſement of the company, which might be made not only the ornament of Mount-Sion, but alſo one of the principal places of entertainment at Tunbridge-Wells. An orcheſtra erected there for the muſic, a coffee-houſe eſtabliſhed with proper refreſh-

ments

The Groves.

ments for the company, walks cut, and lamps occaſionally hung, would make this a ſpot as attractive as many a more celebrated place of aſſembly in the neighbourhood of London.

The Common.

Biſhop's-Down-Common is alſo capable of much improvement, and it is ſo happily diſpoſed by nature, that, with a little induſtry uſed in clearing the ground, cutting walks, planting trees, forming viſtos, and other embelliſhments of this kind, it might become one of the moſt agreeable places of its extent in the kingdom. It may indeed be objected that a river will be wanting to make it complete; but even this deficiency may be moſt beautifully, as well as moſt [95] uſefully ſupplied, by collecting

[95] The uſefulneſs of this work may poſſibly be diſputed

collecting all its ſprings into one channel. The Common.

Improvements of this kind would be an almoſt inconceiveable addition to the amuſements of the place, and, if the inhabitants were heartily to unite in proſecuting theſe uſeful and ornamental works, the expence would not be very burthenſome to individuals, or at leaſt not in proportion to the advantages reſulting therefrom; for as Tunbridge-Wells is now as much frequented for amuſement, as for health, by the people of faſhion and diſtinction, the more agreeable and entertaining it is, the better chance it will always ſtand of being filled. Improvements.

CHAP.

diſputed at preſent, but, whenever the inhabitants of Tunbridge-Wells are provident enough to keep an engine in the place, it will be clear of all doubt.

CHAP. III.

Obſervations on ſome different accounts of the manner and time of diſcovering the mineral ſprings at Tunbridge-Wells, and of the firſt diſorder cured by that water.

THERE being ſome traditional reports of circumſtances, relating to the firſt diſcovery of the medicinal properties of Tunbridge-Wells-Water, which were thought too immaterial to mention in the body of this work; there being alſo ſome very different accounts of the time when this event is ſuppoſed to have happened; and the diſorder firſt cured being another controverſial point; it perhaps may not be altogether uſeleſs to add this chapter to the Appendix, in order to eſtabliſh the foundation of the preceding hiſ-

tory,

tory, and to prevent the cenſures which might otherwiſe be thrown upon it by thoſe, who, depending upon vulgar report, without ſufficiently examining on what baſis it is raiſed, are prejudiced againſt the ſimplicity of truth.

I. It has been very generally aſſerted that the diſcovery of this water was owing to a Cow: ſome ſay this Cow was ſinking in the bog at the time the diſcoverer went by; others aſſert that it was a poor diſeaſed beaſt, which was cured of its diſorder, and brought to give good milk again, by feeding near the ſpring.

The firſt part of this ſtory is not abſolutely improbable, for, as the ground ſurrounding the ſpring was,

we may ſuppoſe, very boggy, a Cow might have ſtrayed into it, and the men belonging to her be dragging the poor beaſt out again juſt as lord North came upon the ſpot, which might be the means of inducing his lordſhip to take more notice of the water than he did in paſſing to Eridge; but, as this immaterial circumſtance is not mentioned in any of the old manuſcripts in my poſſeſſion, it was not thought worth recording.

As to the other part of the ſtory, it is ſo much of a piece with king Bladon's Swine at Bath, the leprous Shepherd at Epſom, and the Dreamer of Glaſtonbury, that i dare ſay it needs no refuting

II. There is a traditional report, that the gentleman who firſt diſcovered the

the water, was an invalid, lodging at Somerhill.

This ſtory has been adopted by many who have had no opportunity, or no inclination, to make proper enquiries; but as it is not only unattended with any circumſtances to evidence its truth, but is alſo directly oppoſed to the teſtimony of thoſe who alone are capable of ſupporting their relation by probable arguments, and as the ſtory of the diſeaſed Cow is tacked to it as an eſſential part, i cannot heſitate a moment in renouncing the whole as a fiction.

III. It has been objected againſt the ſtory, as related in this work, that it is ſurpriſing lord North ſhould take more notice of the water, than any body elſe that had ever travelled

this road; and equally wonderful that he ſhould make theſe remarks in returning back, rather than in going, unleſs ſome extraordinary circumſtances happened at that juncture to engage his attention.

To this it may be anſwered, as to the firſt part, that lord Abergavenny's family, who were in probability the only travellers on this road, were ſo much accuſtomed to the ſight of the mineral phenomenon, from the various ſprings which were diſperſed about in the wood, that it was nothing new or ſurpriſing to them, and therefore they paſſed by it with the ſame degree of careleſſneſs, with which men in general are every day paſſing by ſome of the moſt curious works of nature.

And to the other part it may be anſwered,

anſwered, that lord North in going to Eridge, being probably late and fatigued, was unwilling to loſe time, and through wearineſs incapable of attending to any thing; whereas, on his return, he came into this wood at the beginning of his journey, when he may well be ſuppoſed to have time enough before him to make particular obſervations on this wild country, not to ſay any thing of the condition he was then reduced to, which muſt make him eagerly catch at the ſhadow of hope for relief.

IV. It has been by ſome aſſerted that this diſcovery was made ſo long ago as in the reign of queen Mary the firſt; while others maintain it is ſo ancient and obſcure, that none can tell when it happened.

As an introduction to the narrative of this event it is obſerved, that "there are many different traditional accounts of the firſt diſcovery of Tunbridge-Wells-Water," and it cannot be ſurpriſing to thinking men, that thoſe who are fond of antiquity, and eſteem nothing valuable but in proportion to its age, ſhould affirm it happened in the reign of queen Mary the firſt, or even many years before queen Mary was born. I am not much diſpoſed to enter the liſts againſt men of this diſpoſition; but as this ſtory, if true, muſt ſap the very foundation of the preceding hiſtory, it is abſolutely neceſſary to mention the reaſons that have induced me to give the preference to the modern date, in oppoſition to the more ancient.

Having been favoured with ſeveral ſhort manuſcript relations of this event,

and of circumſtances immediately connected with, or enſuing upon it, which all appear to have been written, many years ago, by different perſons; before any attempt was made towards the beginning of this work, they were carefully collated with each other, and the following paſſages, being perfectly conſiſtent with the reſt of the ſtory, induced me to fix the time of the diſcovery to the year one thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſix.

"And this manifeſtation was "brought about in the fourth year of "our gracious monarch king James."

Old MSS. N°. 1.

"This diſcovery of the ſaid waters "did happen to be made in the fourth "year, or thereabout, of the late king "James, and till then nobody did un-

" derſtand that they had any vertue in
" them, more than other water had."

Old MSS. N°. 2.

Theſe are proofs convincingly ſtrong in favour of my chronology, if the papers from whence they are tranſcribed may be depended upon; but as neither the writers are known, nor the time when they were written, it cannot be ſaid how far they merit our notice; but, notwithſtanding our uncertainty in theſe reſpects, they afford a ſtrong corroborating proof of the following detail, received, many years ago, by one of my own family from the grandchildren of Mrs. Humphreys, who was the firſt water-dipper at Tunbridge-Wells, and the very perſon that lent lord North the wooden bowl out of which he taſted the water. The ſubſtance of this relation, ſo far as it

ſerves

ſerves to ſettle the point at preſent in diſpute, is as follows——

"Mrs. Humphreys was married in "the thirtieth year of her age, and ſoon "afterwards began to dip water from "the ſpring for company attending the "place. This trade ſhe continued "till her death, which happened in the "year 1678, when ſhe was an hun-"dred and two years old."

MSS. Matthew Benge.

From hence it appears that this woman was married in the year 1606, and began to make a profeſſion of water-dipping in a year or two afterwards; which is ſo exactly conformable to the before cited manuſcripts, and all the beſt traditional accounts now to be obtained, that it muſt be allowed to afford a ſtrong preſumptive

tive proof of the time of this diſcovery, which will receive great additional force from obſerving that this place is never mentioned in any book or map, previous to this period, and ſeldom omitted in any original maps, or accounts of Kent, that have been ſince publiſhed. So far indeed is Tunbridge-Wells from being mentioned, that Lambarde in his Perambulation, printed in the year 1576, ſlips away from Tunbridge-Town to Aſhhurſt, and from thence to Deptford, with only ſaying, "there is no-"thing worth remarking in all the "country;" which could not be if the water had been known in his time.

V. It has been aſſerted that lord North's diſorder was not a Conſumption, but the Gravel.

It certainly is not very eaſy at this time to aſcertain which of theſe was the diſorder that occaſioned Lord North's going into the country; but as we know this ſpirited young nobleman indulged himſelf very freely in all the pleaſures of youth, even ſo far as to waſte the greateſt part of his eſtate; it is not unlikely that he ſhould reduce himſelf to a conſumption: and it is moſt aſſuredly far more probable that the phyſicians ſhould preſcribe a change of air for a conſumption than for the gravel.

Beſides this preſumptive argument, there are amongſt the manuſcripts before mentioned two which unite in calling it "a glandular conſumption"; and another in which is the following ſentence:

"And

" And the firſt man that was cured
" by this water was decayed by a con-
" ſumption, proceeding either from
" the obſtruction of the nerves, or elſe
" of the meſaraical veins."

Old MSS. N°. 2.

Theſe were the authorities that induced me to call his lordſhip's diſorder a conſumption, whether properly or not is left to the judgment of others. And, with reſpect to this controverſy, i will content myſelf with the opinion of doctor Rowzee, who maintains that it is an effectual remedy in either caſe——

" This water (ſays he) doth effec-
" tually open all manner of obſtruc-
" tions, whereſoever they be lurking,
" and eſpecially all the obſtructions
" of the meſaraical veins, of the ſpleen,

and

" and of the liver.—It ſcowereth and
" cleanſeth all the paſſages of urine,
" and therefore is good againſt the
" gravel, and ſtone, in the kidnies,
" the ureters, or the bladder."

Rowzee on Tunbridge Water.

ERRATA.

Page 30, *line* 5, *for* as, *read* at.
Page 35, *note*, *line* 3, *for* gave thee, *read* caus'd thy.
Page 86, *line* 11, *for* well well, *read* well.
Page 91, *line ult.* *for* Rouzee, *read* Rowzee.
Page 164, *line* 4, *for* an oak, *read* † a walnut tree.
Page 225, *line* 8, *for* built, *read* he built.
Page 230, *line* 15, *for* Poole, *read* Pole.

† Guillim.

FINIS.

THE

INDEX.

The figure denotes the page—The italics refer to the notes.

A.

Abergavenny, lord, the firſt benefactor to Tunbridge-Wells, 17—19.
Act of Parliament to reſtrain the buildings at the Wells, 62. —To make the Medway navigable, 169.
Adam's-Well diſcovered, walled in, and neglected, 50.
Agues cured by the water, 78.
Air, its effects and importance, 65.—The excellence of that of Tunbridge-Wells, 67—70.
Allen, doctor, his account of the water, 81.
Amity and public affection recommended, 277—283.
Amuſements once confined to London, 20.—Extended and improved by Naſh, 112.—Thoſe of Tunbridge deſcribed, 113—153.
Amelia, princeſs, at the Wells, 63.
Anne, queen, viſits the Wells, 56.—Paves the walks, 58.
Apprentices ſent from the ſchools at the Wells and Tunbridge town, 54.
Apoplexy relieved by the water, 80.
Archigenes ſupports Rowzee's opinion, 79.
Azincourt, the battle of, 163.

B.

Badelſmere, lady, ſent to the Tower, 236.
Balls public and private at the Wells, 120.
Bale, Mr. rebuilds the parſonage at Withyham, 265.
Barrenneſs removed by the water, 81, 85.
Bayhall, an ancient manſion, 235—237.
Bayham Abbey, 244—250.
Beaulieu incorporated with Bayham, 248.
Becket, Thomas à, his conteſts about Tunbridge, 194, 212.
Bokinfold, an old manſion, 252—254.
Bookſeller's ſhop, a place of rendezvous, 126.
Bradbourne, Sir E. Bettenſon's ſeat, 226.
Breakfaſts, public ones, frequent at the Wells, 116.
Brionne, in Normandy, exchanged for Tunbridge, 193.—*Its ſituation*, 194.
Brenchley, a ſmall town, 252.

Brockley granted to Bayham, 248.
Buckingham, duke of, forfeits Tunbridge, 221.—Somerhill, 233.—And Bayhall, 236.
Buckhurſt comes to the Sackvilles, 266.
Bullen, Sir T. buried at Hever, 189.—Queen Anne courted by Henry VIII. at Hever, 189.

C.

Cade, Jack, his rebellion, victory, and death, 227—228.
Camfield, T. his ſhop wheeled on ſledges, 46.
Camfield, W. purchaſes Groombridge, 164.
Cannon caſt near the Wells, 156.
Canterbury, archbiſhops of, their conteſt about Tunbridge, 194, 212.
Caruncles of the urethra relieved by the water, 80.
Care and melancholy diſſonant with the water, 88.
Charles I, the chapel dedicated to him, 52.
Chapel at the Wells built by ſubſcription, 52.
Chafford, a paper-mill there, 166.
Cherry-tree, Tunbridge ware made of it, 108.
Chevening, earl Stanhope's ſeat, 226.
Child, one burnt at the Wells, 55.
Chiddingſtone deſcribed, 187.
Cholic from tough phlegm cured by the water, 80.—Flatulent cured thereby, 83.
Clare, Richard, exchanges Brionne for Tunbridge, 194.—Anecdotes of him, 195—202.
Clare, Gilbert, anecdotes of him, 202—204.
Clare, vide Hartford and Gloceſter.
Clatford deſcribed, 270.
Coal brought up the Medway, 156.
Coffee-houſe, the firſt at the Wells, 30.—Of the preſent coffee-houſes, 115, 126.
Cold-bath at Ruſthall, 59.—At the Wells, 61.
Colepepper affronts queen Iſabella, and is hanged, 235.
Combwell, a priory, 250—252.
Concerts at the Wells, 217.
Cough and fever cured by the water, 83.
Cowden deſcribed, 167.
Crowborough deſcribed, 261.
Cumberland, the duke of, at the Wells, 63.
Culverden deſcribed, 105.
Cupid's triumphs at the Wells, 144.

D.

Diarrhœas, inveterate, cured by the water, 84.

Diet, a proper one for the water deſcribed, 88.
Diſcovery of the water, 11.—Time of this event ſettled, 309.
Dorſet, duke of, reſides at Knowle, 231.
Dorſet, earl of, rebuilds the ſepulchral chapel at Withyham. 264.—Founds a college at Eaſt-Grinſtead, 269.
Dropſies relieved by the water, 82.
Dyſenteries and fluxes cured by the water, 79.

E.

Eaſt-Grinſtead deſcribed, 268.
Edenbridge deſcribed, 190.
Edward I. entertained at Tunbridge caſtle, 217.
Edward II. repoſes at Bokingfold, 253.
England Illuſtrated, an error in that work corrected, 247.
Engine, the propriety of keeping one at the Wells, 302.
Eridge-houſe deſcribed, 6.—*Aaron Hill's account of it, ib.*
Ewhurſt once a famous manſion, 157.
Excurſions in the country an agreeable amuſement at the Wells, 124.
External uſes of the water, 80.

F.

Farms, two left to the charity-ſchools of Tunbridge and Tunbridge-Wells, 54.
Farmers near the Wells ſhould be preferred to more diſtant ones, 280.
Farming the intereſt of the inhabitants of the Wells, 276.
Female complaints relieved by the water, 78, 81, 86.
Ferbies once an eminent manſion, 157.
Fermor, Sir Henry, his charities, 262.
Fever, a periodical one, cured by the water, 83.
Fire, a dreadful one, at the Wells, 55.
Fiſtula cured by the water, 83.
Fiſh-ponds opened, 46.—By what means reduced, 47.
Fluor Albus aſſiſted by the water, 78.
Fluxes cured by the water, 80.
Foreſt, a large one, near the Wells, 99.
Frant, the place named from thence, 27.—That village deſcribed, 256.
Frederick prince of Wales at the Wells, 62.

G.

Gaming the evening amuſement at the Wells, 120.
Glaſs, painted, in Edenbridge church, 190.—Some at Goudhurſt, 255.
Gloceſter, William duke of, at the Wells, 57.

Gloceſter, earl Gilbert, rebels againſt John, 212.
Gloceſter, earl Richard, finiſhes the quarrel with the archbiſhops, 214.
Gloceſter, earl Gilbert the red, anecdotes of him, 216—219.
Gloceſter, earl Gilbert, the laſt of this family killed in Scotland, 220.
Gloceſter, duke of, confined at Penſhurſt, 182.
Goudhurſt deſcribed, 254.
Great Bounds deſcribed, 167.
Groombridge deſcribed, 162—165.
Groves about the Wells improveable, 300.
Guthrie, an error in his hiſtory corrected, 200.

H.

Harris's Hiſtory of Kent, remarks on a paſſage therein, 196.
Hartford, Richard, Earl of, anecdotes of him, 204—205.
Hartford, Roger, earl of, gives a buck annually to the Auguſtines of Canterbury, 212.
Henry V. permits Waller to keep the duke of Orleans at Groombridge, 163.
Hever, town and caſtle deſcribed, 188—190.
High Rocks, account of them, 47—49—124.
Hill, Aaron, his deſcription of Eridge, 6.—*Intended to improve the foreſt*, 100.
Hooke cited, 55.
Horſe races, annual, at the Wells, 125.
Hollands, an old manſion, 157.
Holland, Sir Thomas, anecdotes of him, 158—160.
Hoſpitallers, *their origin and riches*, 196.
Humphreys, Mrs. the firſt water-dipper, 312.—Her marriage, death, and age, 313.

I.

Ightham-Court, a houſe ſo called, 226.
Improvement the intereſt of every public place, 285.—Particular ones requiſite at the Wells, 287—303.
Inflammations, inward, cured by the water, 80.
Iron very plentiful near the Wells, 156.
Ireland conquered by Henry II. 207—211.
Jaundice, black and yellow, cured by the water, 78.
Johnſon, Ben. a quotation from him, 176.—*Compliments lady Leiceſter*, ib.
Joan of Acre, anecdotes of her, 218—220.

K.

Kelley, Sir George, gives a cup to be rode for at the Wells, 125.
Knowle deſcribed, 229.

Kidbrook deſcribed, 267.
Kippington, Sir Charles Farnaby's houſe, 226.

L.

Lanfranc, archbiſhop, recovers Tunbridge from Odo, 193.
Lamberhurſt deſcribed, 250.
Lethargies relieved by the water, 80.
Lewes, the battle of, 216.
Linden, his teſtimony in favour of the water, 84.
Long, Mr. builds a cold-bath, 59.

M.

Manners once unfavourable to public places, 21—113.—Refined by Mr. Naſh, 113.
Marlborough, duke of, deſcended from Sachariſſa, 183.
Mayfield deſcribed, 259.
Medway made navigable, 169.—Mereworth, its ancient and preſent ſtate, 239—244.
Moate, Mr. Selby's houſe, 226.
Mount Ephraim, buildings raiſed there, 44.—Deſcribed, 105.
Mount Sion eclipſes Mount Ephraim, 45.—Its ſituation deſcribed, 102.
Monthermer, Ralph, marries Joan of Acre, 219.
Muſkerry, lord, anecdotes of him, 40—44.
Muſic, the band of, 114—115—117—141.

N.

Names, different, given to the place, 27.
North, lord, diſcovers the water, 11.
Northumberland, earl, rebels againſt Rufus, 203.
Nunnery, one in Goudhurſt pariſh ſupported by monks, 251.

O.

Obſtructions removed by the water, 78.
Objections conſidered and refuted, 304.
Orleans, duke of, priſoner at Groombridge, 163.
Otford given up to the crown, 230.
Oxenheath, 239.

P.

Penſhurſt-place, the hiſtory of, 170—187.
Penſhurſt, a Poem, a quotation from it, 177.
Peckham, a Preceptory there, 237.
Philipot corrected, 200.
Poetry, the Tunbridge, kept at the bookſeller's ſhop, 117.
Pope's epitaph on the earl of Dorſet, 264
Prolific qualities of the water, 81—85.
Proſpects, agreeable ones about the Wells, 125.—A fine one at Great Bounds, 168.

Purbeck, lady, gives the ground on which the chapel was built, 52.

Q.

Queen Henrietta Maria at the Wells, 22.
Queen Catharine at the Wells, 42.
Queen Mary I. gives Hever to Sir Edward Waldegrave, 190.
Queen Iſabella refuſed a lodging at Leeds-caſtle, 235.
Queen Eliſabeth is a benefactreſs to Sevenoak-ſchool, 225.
Queen's-grove planted in honour of Queen Anne, 59.
Queen Anne of Cleves reſides at Hever, 190.
Queen's ſtone, the ſtory of, 27.

R.

Rowzee, doctor, his account of the water, &c. 27—36—77—79.
Roads, a turnpike one to Lewes recommended, 287.
Rochford, lord, forfeits Hever, 189.
Rotherfield deſcribed, 258.
Roundheads lodge at Ruſthall, and are refuſed to build a conventicle, 33.

S.

Saliſbury, Counteſs of, anecdotes of her, 158—161.
Sachariſſa, anecdotes of her, 182—184.
Schirrus of the ſpleen cured by the water, 78.
Scurvy relieved by the water, 78.
Sevenoak, the hiſtory of, 224—228.
Seaſon, effects of a bad one at the Wells, 274.
Sidney, Sir William, has Penſhurſt granted to him, 172.
Sidney, Sir Henry, very eminent, 172—174.
Sidney, Sir Philip, anecdotes of him, 175—180.
Sidney, Algernon, born at Penſhurſt, 184.
Sidney, Eliſabeth, is married to Mr. Perry, 185.
Slare, doctor, his opinion of the water, 84.
Smythe, Baron, deſcended from Sachariſſa, 184.
Somerhill, a fine old manſion, 233.
Speldhurſt, the ſprings riſe in that pariſh, 28.—Country deſcribed, 156.
Strong, William, Eſq. leaves an eſtate to the ſchools of Tunbridge and Tunbridge-Wells, 54.
Stone relieved by the water, 78.
Stomach, the diſorders of, relieved by the water, 80—83.

T.

Templars, their origin and fall, 196.
Thorneham, Sir Robert, charitable to monks, 248—251.
Touting humorouſly deſcribed, 138—144.—Its bad effects, 284.

Trees planted on the walks, 32.
Tradeſmen expoſed to many inconveniencies, 32—39.
Tunbridge-Wells, why the place was ſo named, 28.—Its ſituation and boundaries, 98.—Its conveniencies and advantages as a place of pleaſure enumerated, 109.—Its ſuperiority over Brighthelmſtone, 288.
Tumour, a painful one in the ſtomach, removed by the water, 83.

V.

Vane, Sir Ralph, forfeits Penſhurſt to the crown, 171.
Verbal information the baſis of this hiſtory, 3.
Venereal complaints aſſiſted by the water, 80—84.
Vomiting relieved by the water, 80.

W.

Water the mineral diſcovered, 11.—grows famous, 19.—Amazing quantity drank per day at firſt, 36.—Its virtues and properties, 72.—86.—Of the diet, &c. neceſſary with it, 87.—98.
Water for family uſe excellent at the Wells, 109.
Wadhurſt deſcribed, 256.
Warm-Bath, an artificial one recommended at the Wells, 291—296.
Wales prince and princeſs at the Wells, 62.
Waller, Sir Richard, ſtory of him, 163.
Waller, the poet, cited, 35.—Addreſſes lady Dorothy Sidney, 183.
Water-works, at the cold bath, 59.
Weller's houſe on the Culverden deſcribed, 105.
Werk-caſtle defended by the counteſs of Saliſbury, 159,
Wheatears plentiful at the Wells, 109.—*The manner of catching them*, ib.
Wilderneſs, Mr. Pratt's houſe, 226.
William Rufus, appears before Tunbridge, 200.—Confines his uncle Odo there, 201.
Withyham the burying place of the Sackvilles, 263.
Wood ſcarce on account of the founderies, 156.
Woodgate Mr. poſſeſſor of Somerhill, 234.

Y.

Yew uſed in ornamenting Tunbridge-Ware, 108.
York, James, duke of, at the Wells, 47.
York and Gloceſter, the dukes of, at the Wells, 63.
Yokes-place, the ſeat of Mr. Maſter, 244.

Z.

Zutphen, the battle of, 179.

finiens = Unaréd 109